

Eban: U.S. clinging to 'fantasy'

GENEVA (AP) — Former Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban said Friday the United States has been clinging to a "fantasy" in placing its hopes on President Amin Gemayel and that the Soviet Union, under its new leadership, might take a more active role in seeking a settlement of the Lebanon problem. "Why the United States believed that it was possible to construct Lebanese solidarity on the basis of Falangist-Christian hegemony, I do not understand," he told a press conference. He said the U.S.-inspired Lebanon's May 17 troop withdrawal accord was based on the "fiction that Gemayel was a great power" ignoring that "Syria's influence cannot be avoided." If the United States had been successful in this fantasy, it would have been the first time in diplomatic history that anything of that kind would have happened. Mr. Eban said, stressing that history teaches that a primary task of a diplomat is to establish "where the real sovereignty" lies.

Jordan Times

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Lebanese Shi'ite leader assassinated

BEIRUT (AP) — Sheikh Ragheb Harb, a Shi'ite Muslim religious leader in the southern Lebanese village of Jibshit, was killed Thursday night by unknown gunmen. Beirut Radio reported. The report Friday morning said Sheikh Ragheb was shot as he was returning home from dinner at a friend's house Thursday night. It said two men with the sheikh were seriously wounded. The state radio said it had no details. The "Voice of Lebanon" radio station of the right-wing Falangist Party said Israeli troops surrounded the village, 57 kilometres south of Beirut, after learning of the slaying. Sheikh Ragheb had preached frequently against the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon. He was arrested by Israeli occupation troops and held for several weeks last year. Travellers from southern Lebanon said the assassination had heightened tensions in Jibshit and the nearby Shi'ite market town of Nabatiyeh.

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Emil Ghouri passes away

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Ahmad Obeidat announced the death of Emil Ghouri, a deputy in the Lower House of Parliament, who passed away Friday morning. Mr. Ghouri, a former cabinet member, represented the Jerusalem region in the House.

BBC crew wounded in Lebanese blast

BEIRUT (AP) — A three-man television crew and a Lebanese driver for the British Broadcasting Corporation suffered injuries Friday when their car hit a land mine in the village of Kfar Matta, a spokesman said. The crew, made up of Englishmen, was outside the car when the driver was moving the vehicle and it set off the mine. The driver was moving the car to make way for an armoured personnel carrier when the explosion occurred.

New chief named for Sinai force

ROME (AP) — The multinational force and observers (MFO) announced Friday that Lieutenant-General Egil J. Ingbrigtsen of Norway is the new commander of the 10-nation peacekeeping force in the Sinai peninsula. Gen. Ingbrigtsen replaces fellow Norwegian Lt.-Gen. Fredrik V. Bull-Hansen, who is leaving the MFO desert command to become Norway's chief of defence. The appointment was decided on Feb. 15 by MFO Director-General Leonard Ray Huns shortly before the American diplomat was killed by terrorists in Rome, the MFO press office said in a statement.

Lebanese group claims responsibility for killing, page 2

Witness jailed in British gold robbery

LONDON (AP) — A security guard who confessed to helping robbers get away with £26 million (\$36 million) worth of gold, diamonds and other valuables was sentenced Friday to six years in prison for conspiring in Britain's biggest robbery ever.

7 sentenced to death in Turkey

ISTANBUL (R) — A military court in Istanbul Friday sentenced seven leftist militants to death for forming an illegal organisation to overthrow the state, court sources said. Death sentences on two others were commuted to 20 years imprisonment because they were under-age.

2 die as quake hits Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (R) — Two people died and 12 were injured when an earthquake measuring 6.5 on the Richter Scale hit northern Pakistan and Afghanistan Thursday night, the official AP news agency reported Friday. The quake, the third major tremor in the region in seven weeks, struck in the towering Hindu Kush mountain range along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border.

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Eight-point Saudi peace plan announced in Beirut Gemayel offers to abrogate Lebanese-Israeli pact

BEIRUT (Agencies) — President Amin Gemayel has agreed to cancel Lebanon's May 17 withdrawal agreement with Israel, but only as part of a plan announced Friday that centres on old proposals that have failed to solve the Lebanese conflict over the past six months.

Chief among these is the simultaneous withdrawal of Syrian and Israeli troops from Lebanon, a proposal Syria has rejected previously in connection with the May 17 Lebanese-Israeli pact.

The announcement of the plan by Foreign Minister Elie Salem also came after the two main Lebanese opposition leaders had said the abrogation of the May 17 agreement was not enough to end their call for Mr. Gemayel to resign, or at least accept responsibility for Lebanese army bombardment of civilian areas populated by Shi'ite Muslims.

Following the announcement, President Gemayel said he looked forward to a new era of good relations with Syria as a result of the Saudi-sponsored plan for peace in Lebanon.

He told reporters: "We are expecting through this plan a new era with the Syrians."

"We are ready, we hope, that we could reach the best relations with our neighbours and brothers."

Syria says peace plan contradicts Geneva talks

DAMASCUS (R) — Syrian Foreign Minister Abdul Halim Khaddam said Friday an eight-point Saudi-sponsored peace plan for Lebanon contradicted understandings reached at an all-party peace conference in Geneva last November.

Mr. Khaddam's statement, reported by the official news agency SANA, was the first official reaction from Syria to the plan following the arrival in Damascus of Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal to seek Syrian support.

Mr. Khaddam said the Geneva conference, attended by Lebanese President Amin Gemayel, opposition leader Walid Junblat and other faction chiefs, agreed that Lebanon's identity was Arab and that the Lebanese government should "consecrate this Arab affiliation in all domains."

"How could the Lebanese citizen exercise his Arabism if he has to put the Israeli enemy on an equal footing with Syria?" Mr. Khaddam asked.

He was apparently referring to a point in the peace plan which calls for the simultaneous withdrawal

of the Syrians."

Mr. Gemayel added: "I am confident that this initiative will lead to a national reconciliation and the withdrawal of all foreign forces from this country. If this plan doesn't succeed, we will try another one."

Mr. Salem's announcement of the plan at the presidential palace came only hours after army gunners in the surrounding Christian suburbs traded fire with the mainly Druze Progressive Socialist Party in mountains to the southeast. It also came amid continued fighting between the army and Shi'ite opposition forces along the "green line" dividing Christian east Beirut from the city's mostly Muslim western sector.

Mr. Salem said the government had no reaction from Syria or Israel to the plan, while indicating not only their agreement would be needed but also that of Lebanese groups he referred to as Israeli or Syrian "sub-forces," apparently meaning the PSP and Shi'ites.

Despite rejection by opposition leaders in advance of parts of the plan, Mr. Salem said: "We have here a very daring plan that will have the enthusiastic support of all the Lebanese."

Eight-point plan

Mr. Salem said the eight points of the plan were:

— Implementing a "security plan" for a ceasefire;

— Cancelling last May's treaty with Israel;

— Working out security arrangements in South Lebanon to guarantee the withdrawal of Israeli troops;

— Discussion of internal political reforms;

— Agreement with Syria on withdrawing its forces from Lebanon;

— Withdrawal of forces to be simultaneous, within three months of reaching agreement with Israel on security arrangements for South Lebanon;

— Agreeing that the plan was a "package deal" which should be accepted as a whole or not at all;

— Formation of a government of national unity to implement the plan.

Mr. Salem said that if the various Lebanese parties agreed to the plan, they could then resume talks on national reconciliation in Geneva. A first round of talks was held last November.

Iranian planes raid Iraq as fighting flares on front

BAHRAIN (R) — Iraq said at least 16 civilians were killed Friday in an Iranian air raid on an Iraqi town near the border as Iran reported heavy fighting in its latest offensive on the central Gulf war front.

The Iranian national news agency, IRNA, said troops were shelling the main Baghdad-Basra highway.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein repeated that his government was ready to sign an agreement with Iran to stop attacks on civilian areas and to negotiate an end to the 41-month-old war, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported.

Baghdad Radio said 16 civilians were killed and 12 wounded when two Iranian jets raided the town of Ali Al Gharbi, in Misan province, 30 kilometres from the border.

Iranian planes raided a town northeast of Baghdad and two centres well south of the capital on Wednesday, a day after Iraq said it was stopping attacks on Iranian towns for one week in response to an appeal from exiled Iranian opposition leader Masoud Rajavi.

Ground fighting flared south of the border town of Mehran, where Iran launched an offensive at midnight on Wednesday.

Iraq said the Iranian attack had failed and Iraqi troops were harassing a retreating enemy. It also said Iraqi forces scored further successes in its campaign to blockade Iranian ports at the head of the Gulf, saying seven "enemy naval targets" had been destroyed in an Iraqi air force and naval attack.

Five were sunk by direct action and two more vessels had hit mine while trying to escape, an Iraqi communiqué said.

President Hussein said Friday his government is ready to sign an agreement with Iran halting attacks on civilian areas and to negotiate an end to the war.

"Iraq is prepared to cease all types of military operations and start negotiations to achieve a peaceful solution based on the just and honest teachings of Islam," he said in a message to Guinean President Ahmad Sekou Toure.

Syria and the Lebanese opposition wanted the May 17 pact scrapped because, although it calls for the withdrawal of Israeli troops from South Lebanon, it gives Israel a role in policing the area. Israel has said it would never renounce the treaty. Lebanon's mainly Christian rightist militia, normally sympathetic to Mr. Gemayel, said it also wanted the accord to stay.

The command council of the "Lebanese Forces" militia said: "Whenever tries by terrorist means or pressure to abrogate it will be working for Syrian interests in maintaining a Syrian presence and Syrian control over Lebanon."

'Too little too late'

PSP leader Walid Junblat Thursday night described the Saudi peace plan as "too little too late". He ruled out any compromise with Mr. Gemayel, whose resignation he has regularly demanded as a condition for peace.

Nabih Berri, leader of the "Amal" Shi'ite Muslim militia and Mr. Junblat's ally, told reporters he was interested first in "Defining President Gemayel's responsibility for the massacre of the suburbs."

He was referring to civilian casualties in the mainly Shi'ite southern outskirts of Beirut in heavy fighting between Amal and the army 10 days ago.

Iran repeats threat to block Hormuz, page 2

Israel rejects abrogation of pact with Lebanon

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel totally rejects the expected abrogation by Lebanese President Amin Gemayel of the Israel-Lebanon troop withdrawal agreement. Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and other top officials said Friday.

But Israel will not make any hasty decisions on its next steps following the agreement's abrogation and intends to look after its "security" interests regardless of Mr. Gemayel's decision, Israeli newspapers said Friday.

The daily Yedioth Ahronoth quoted Mr. Shamir as saying "the agreement's abrogation will cause more damage to Lebanon than to Israel." He has said in earlier interviews that if Mr. Gemayel scrapped the accord Israel would feel free to ignore its own undertakings in Lebanon — to withdraw its troops — and hinted that abrogations would lead to de facto partitioning of Lebanon.

Mr. Shamir said in a television interview on Thursday that abrogation would be a "catastrophe" for future peace agreement in the Middle East and stressed that Israel would not repudiate the agreement.

But Yedioth Ahronoth and other papers said the government would wait for the situation in Lebanon to clarify before coming to any decision on its next moves.

The virtual collapse of President Gemayel's rule this week and his apparent intention to abrogate the May 1983 accord with Israel also seems to have put back a redeployment of Israel's harassed forces, Reuters quoted Western military experts here as saying Friday.

The army had been planning to withdraw from the Awali River to a line farther south, evacuating the city of Sidon and several other heavily-populated trouble-spots.

Mr. Shamir was quoted as telling Haaretz newspaper that the government still hoped to reduce the army in Lebanon.

However, Western experts said the defeats suffered by the Lebanese army at the hands of opposition militias this week had upset all calculations and it would take time for the dust to settle.

Lebanon overshadows Shamir's trip to Europe; Europe seeks EC role in Mideast, page 2

U.S. Marines to begin Beirut pullout this week

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President Ronald Reagan on Friday ordered U.S. Marines to begin their pullback from Beirut to ovy ships off the Lebanese coast this weekend, though a contingent of 500 American military personnel will remain, the White House announced.

Deputy White House Press Secretary Larry Speakes said the president made the decision formally in a session with his national security adviser, Robert C. McFarlane.

Earlier a senior White House official, who did not wish to be identified, told reporters that Mr. Reagan was expected to approve a timetable for the withdrawal of the Marines submitted by Defence Secretary Casper Weinberger, the Associated Press said.

The Marine force at the airport currently stands at about 1,300. Other Marines are guarding the embassy and 81 U.S. army trainers are also in Beirut.

The White House official said the redeployment, originally scheduled to take several months, was speeded up to help ease the political situation in the embattled country.

He refused to take a position on a Saudi Arabian peace plan, accepted on Wednesday by Lebanese President Amin Gemayel, that calls for the abrogation of the U.S.-mediated May 17 Lebanese-Israeli accord providing for withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon.

"The United States has not been asked to take a position on it... (but) anybody's plan ought to be given a serious hearing," the senior official said.

The United States continues to favour implementation of the May 17 accord and Mr. Speakes said the administration "had problems with certain elements of the (Saudi) plan."

But Mr. Reagan suggested on Wednesday he would not object strenuously if the pact were abrogated.

The number of U.S. servicemen in Lebanon would vary, but "it would not exceed 500" according to the official.

King Hassan II expected to visit Libya

RABAT (R) — King Hassan II of Morocco is expected to visit Libya soon to seal the rapprochement between the two formerly estranged countries which began last July, diplomatic sources said Thursday.

The visit, planned to last three or four days, was expected to take place before the end of the month and perhaps as early as next week, the sources said.

It would underline the improvement in Libyan-Moroccan ties after more than a decade of cool relations and even hostility between King Hassan and Libya's leader, Colonel Muammar Qaddafi.

Libya backs Goukouni Oueddei, whose rebels are fighting to overthrow the Chadian government of President Hissene Habre, but has denied taking part in the fighting there.

Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya and Mauritania have all pledged to work towards a "Great Arab Maghreb," but attempts to forge closer links have foundered on regional rivalries and the Western Sahara dispute.

Mauritania has joined a "treaty of concord" signed by Algeria and Tunisia last year, seen as the foundation of more regional co-operation.

Morocco has not joined and Libya probably will be kept waiting, according to the sources.



Cheering militiamen of the mainly Druze Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) Friday display a jeep captured from the rightist Falangist forces in central Lebanon (AP wirephoto).

King meets British leaders

LONDON (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein met British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher Thursday on his way home from Washington where he held talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and U.S. President Reagan on Middle East peace efforts.

British officials described King Hussein's talks with Mrs. Thatcher and Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe as routine, noting that the King is a frequent visitor to Britain.

But Reuters quoted Arab sources as saying the talks came at a time when Arab states were expressing renewed interest in greater Western European involvement in the peace process.

Mr. Howe had talks earlier in the day with the visiting head of

the Arab League, Chadli Klibi, covering the Arab-Israeli conflict and the crisis in Lebanon.

He and Mrs. Thatcher will also be holding talks with Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Abdullah who is due in London next week.

But, despite the apparent build-up of diplomatic contacts between Britain and the Arab states, British officials played down speculation that a new British or European Community initiative on the Middle East might be in the offing, according to Reuters.

They said they nevertheless shared Arab concern that progress towards peace might become frozen during U.S. presidential election campaign year, Reuters said.

During his White House talks with President Reagan, King Hussein was reported to have expressed concern that U.S. involvement in the Lebanon problem had diverted Washington from the overall peace process.

Mr. Howe hinted at similar concerns in a speech earlier this week when he said: "The problem of Lebanon is... only part of a wider political problem in the region, a negotiated settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute."

Mr. Howe reaffirmed the British view that the way forward lay in Israeli recognition of the right of the Palestinians to self-determination and Arab recognition of Israel.

Arab sources said Arab countries were looking to Britain to steer U.S. policy away from unilateral support of Israel, according to Reuters.

Hussein lauds Soviet stand in message to Chernenko

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein has praised Soviet support for Arab causes in a congratulatory message to new Soviet leader Konstantin Chernenko, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said Thursday.

"Jordan and the Arab Nation appreciate the positive stand of the Soviet Union in support of Arab causes and legitimate rights, especially the rights of the Palestinians to recover their land and to decide by themselves their future on their national soil," Petra quoted the message as saying.

The King, who is now in London after visiting the United States, also said Jordan looked forward to further consolidation of relations with the Soviet Union and mutual co-operation in various fields, the message said.

Strauss says he 'implored' Syria for Mideast peace

MUNICH (AP) — Leading West German politician Franz Josef Strauss said Friday he used his controversial two-day trip to Syria to implore Damascus to work for a Middle East peace.

"I implored Assad to do everything so that peace comes to the tortured region," Mr. Strauss, the governor of the West German state of Bavaria, told a news conference in Munich several hours after returning from his trip.

In his talks with the Syrians, Mr. Strauss expressed the "burning interest" of Europe in a halt to fighting in Lebanon and a dismantling of Middle East tensions, he said.

Mr. Strauss, a former West German defence and finance minister, is the chairman of the Christian Social Union, the Bavarian

Kaddoumi, Khaddam to meet in Damascus

DAMASCUS (R) — The head of the Political Department of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (P.L.O.), Farouk Kaddoumi, is expected to meet Syrian Foreign Minister Abdul Halim Khaddam within the next few days, informed Palestinian sources said Friday.

They said Mr. Kaddoumi, whose position gives him status equivalent to a foreign minister in the P.L.O., arrived here Thursday on a "private visit to see his family living in Damascus."

In Kuwait, the newspaper Al Qabas Friday quoted P.L.O. sources as saying Mr. Kaddoumi had gone to Damascus to seek reconciliation between Syria and the P.L.O.'s biggest commando group, Fatah, led by P.L.O. Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Mr. Kaddoumi's visit could be followed by a meeting between Mr. Arafat and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, it quoted the sources as saying.

The P.L.O. sources in Syria told Reuters Mr. Kaddoumi had sounded out Syrian reaction to his visit before coming here, and that Mr. Khaddam had welcomed it.

Kuwait denies stopping aid to P.L.O., page 2

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Morocco has not joined and Libya probably will be kept waiting, according to the sources.

Refugees conference seeks greater pressure on Israel to end colonialism

TUNIS (Petra) — The Palestine Refugee Affairs Supervisors Conference, which concluded its 32nd session Thursday, issued a number of recommendations pertaining to the Palestinian question, the Palestinians in the occupied Arab territories and Palestinian affairs at the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA).

The conference recommended that the authorities concerned in host Arab countries, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the Arab League work unceasingly in the international arena to put an end to Israel's colonial policy, the confiscation of land, racial practices against the Arabs and Zionist aggressions against holy places in the occupied territories.

It also stressed its rejection of an Israeli 'resettlement' plan for refugees.

The conference further called on the Palestine refugees living in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to adhere to their position and not to leave their camps. It also charged the authorities concerned in the Arab host countries and the PLO to contact UNRWA Commissioner-General Olaf Rydbeck and to urge UNRWA to state its position vis-a-vis this measure.

As regards Palestinian affairs at UNRWA, the conference stressed that the responsibility for work relief and construction of refugee houses rests with the international community and that

Israel should be held responsible for resultant damage, deaths and vagabondage.

The conferees expressed their deep regret over the UNRWA commissioner-general's failure to respond to the remarks made by host Arab countries about his annual report to the United Nations General Assembly.

The conference also recommended that UNRWA should be instructed to stop issuing the new registration cards to the Palestine refugees and that a unified Arab position in this respect should be adopted.

The forthcoming session of the Palestine Refugee Affairs Supervisors will be held in Amman next August.

Diplomatic wives briefed on women's federation

AMMAN (Petra) — The wives of the heads of Arab and foreign diplomatic missions in Amman Thursday visited the National Federation of Jordanian Women (NFJW) headquarters at the invitation of NFJW President Haifa Al Bashir.

Mrs. Bashir explained to the visitors the goals of the federation and its function in developing the role of women in society and their participation in developing society at the social, economic and political levels.

"The federation aims to develop the intellectual and cultural standard of women, to increase their productivity and participation in public life in addition to increasing care for children in all respects," Mrs. Bashir said.

She also pointed out that the federation has contributed to the setting up of some public gardens and training centres for expatriate women and has also taken part in greening campaigns in the country and has held training courses and seminars.

The NFJW president also briefed the visitors on arrangements currently being made to hold a welfare festival scheduled for April 19 with the participation of 65 national bodies. She then went on to call on the wives of the heads of diplomatic missions to participate in it.

The festival is aimed at involving various women's institutions in a concerted effort to support the federation's projects, Mrs. Bashir concluded.

Hassan attends graduation of NCOs

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Thursday patronised the graduation ceremony of non-commissioned officers, held at the Royal Non-Commissioned Officers School.

The graduation celebration was also attended by assistant chief of staff for operations and training and a number of senior army officers, in addition to officers and staff of the Royal Non-Commissioned Officers School.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, meets members of the European Community delegation (above) and the Forum Humanum administrative committee (below) both Thursday (Petra photo).



Hassan, EC delegation discuss economic links

AMMAN (Petra) — Economic relations between Jordan and the European Community (EC) and ways of consolidating ties between EC countries and Jordan were discussed Thursday morning during a meeting between His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and EC delegation currently visiting Jordan.

The EC delegation also met President of Yarmouk University Adnan Badran and discussed a working paper compiled by the Jordanian side, comprising representatives of those concerned with high education and manpower planning.

The European Community delegation arrived in Amman Sunday. The Regent also received in his office Thursday members of the Forum Humanum's administrative committee in Jordan.

The members briefed Prince Hassan on the Forum Humanum's achievements during the past period and its projects and plans for the current year, the International Year of the Youth.

Attending the meeting was Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh and Minister of Culture, Youth and Antiquities Abdullah Owaidat.

JD 2m contract to upkeep airport utilities signed

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Transport Thursday signed with a British company, IAL, a JD 2 million agreement for electromechanical maintenance work on all the utilities at the Queen Alia International Airport. Under the two-year agreement, the company will maintain the air-



INDUSTRIAL TOUR: Minister of Communications Mohammad Al Zaben (third from left) and Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Hamdullah Al Nabolsi (to his left) pay a visit to the Sahab Industrial Estate with fellow cabinet member Jawad Al Anani (not in picture) to survey the recently completed service buildings (Petra photo).

Ramtha: 'A town and a village incorporated'

RAMTHA (J.T.) — The border town of Ramtha in the northern part of the country is inhabited by nearly 48,000 people, according to the latest statistics, but the services offered to the public there and the general conditions in the town are far from satisfactory.

This was the view of many people living in Ramtha — the town through which all vehicles normally pass on their way to and from Syria.

Among those complaining was the mayor, Dr. Mohammad Mayyas, who described Ramtha as "a town and village incorporated together".

He said that refuse heaps in the streets and alleys are commonplace and the municipality lacks sufficient rubbish containers to place around the town, this means that people have no alternative but to dump their garbage all around the existing containers, he said.

Dr. Mayyas also complained about the doctors and the pharmacists who do not abide by their duty rosters at night. Sometimes a citizen needs medicine at night and suddenly discovers that no pharmacy is open while sometimes duty doctors ignore the roster issued by the Ramtha health department, Dr. Mayyas said.

He added that pharmacies often issue different types of medicine without a doctor's prescription many of which, like sedatives, are potentially very dangerous. We have also noticed that the Jordanian Pharmacists Association is not interested in keeping control over its members' activities, Dr. Mayyas said.

Patchy services

One of Ramtha elderly citizens, Mr. Mohammad Maqdad, told us that public services in the town are of a poor quality and benefit only certain groups of people.

He said: "A number of areas are denied services while others enjoy an abundance of them". The town and its surroundings do not get enough attention from the agriculture department and the price of fertilisers is prohibitively high.

In addition, construction work

in all the time encroaching on the farmland, and municipal and village councils are constantly extending their borders, thus causing agricultural land to shrink.

I want to see the old law on farming be revived, he said. This forces each farmer to cultivate his land and to plant trees on high land.

I also urge the agriculture department to open new agricultural roads as existing ones are in a very poor state and do not serve the purpose of development.

Ramtha District Governor Mahmoud Al Sari listed the following proposals through which to remedy some of the town's ailments:

— More schools with proper sanitary facilities should be built by the Ministry of Education thus ending the use of rented buildings which do not offer proper facilities.

— The town requires an agricultural school to serve the whole district. This will be in line with the government's plans for developing agriculture.

— Developing a handicraft centre to teach various specialisations.

— Building school playgrounds to permit children to exercise in a healthy atmosphere.

According to Mr. Sari, the local hospital can offer sufficient health and medical services for the whole town but the district is in need of health centres for mother and child care and dental clinics that will serve both the town and neighbouring rural regions.

Water problems

As to the water services, Mr. Sari said: "The town is at present supplied with water from two sources, the first at Al Azraq and the second from the artesian wells at Al Mahasi."

Four months ago the town was supplied with 10,000 cubic metres of water daily but this was not sufficient for the growing population. Later however, a new 17-inch pipe line was installed to supply the town and the northern villages with water.

The problem facing the town now is not the water itself but rather the existing network of pipes which were installed in 1952 and have become worn out and damaged in some parts.

If the network is not replaced by a new one the danger of pollution is bound to appear and cases of poisoning will result.

The town municipality has now submitted a draft project to the

Ministry of Municipalities and Rural Affairs and the Environment to obtain a loan to finance the replacement of the water network.

Mr. Sari said that craftsmen and artisans will be moved to an industrial zone east of the town of Ramtha by the end of June.

Heavy lorries

On the presence of many lorries inside the town, Mr. Sari said that most of these vehicles bear Kuwait licence plates but their owners are from Ramtha and they park their vehicles in and around the town. Mr. Sari said: "The lorries are banned from entering the town and their owners risk a JD 85 fine for bringing them into the town rather than leaving them in a special lorry parking, outside the town."

The townspeople tend to build stores or warehouses, he observed so much so that almost everyone has one or two warehouses adjacent to it.

This is a strange phenomenon indeed, he said, because most of the warehouses can not be let to merchants or companies in view of the current recession and the drop in trading activity.

RSS head outlines research spending

AMMAN (Petra) — The Royal Scientific Society (RSS) President, Fakhraddin Daghestani said that the failure of many developing countries in the field of technological progress is attributable to the lack of scientific and technological policies which secure the application of technology to the production sector.

The RSS rendered technical services to more than 400 institutions in the public and private sectors and it carries out more than half a million laboratory tests every year, Mr. Daghestani added.

Mr. Daghestani indicated that Jordan spends three per cent of its gross national income on scientific research and development, while developed countries spend two and a half per cent on research and development.

One dead in road accidents

AMMAN (J.T.) — One person was killed and 86 others injured in 189 road accidents over the past week, according to the Public Security Department.

It said that out of these figures, 40 incidents were cases in which people were knocked down by cars.

Meanwhile, a report in Al Ra'i newspaper said that two children aged nine and 11 died when they drowned in a rain water lake at Umm Al Basatin village west of here.

86 candidates declare as by-election hots up

By Lami K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Nominations for elections opened Thursday to fill eight vacant seats in the restored Lower House of Parliament.

The elections, scheduled for March 12, are the first since the last general parliamentary elections prior to the Israeli occupation of the West Bank in 1967.

The Lower House of Parliament, which was recalled last month after a 10-year suspension, found itself with 15 vacant seats caused by the death of several of its occupants.

The House amended the constitution to allow the election of seven West Bank members by the existing House deputies and the holding of a by-election in the East Bank to fill the eight vacant seats.

By Friday night, the number of candidates to contest the eight seats had reached 88.

The nominations will remain open until Monday and more candidates are expected to register.

The 88 candidates were distributed as follows: 31 candidates contesting one seat in the Governorate of Amman; 24 candidates to contest three seats in the Balqa Governorate; 16 candidates to contest one seat in the Karak Governorate; 15 candidates to contest one seat in Irbid and two candidates to contest one seat in Tafleh.

Although Tafleh is part of the Karak Governorate, it is considered as an independent district as far as elections are concerned and has its own deputies in the parliament.

The election campaign, which kicked off as soon as nominations were opened, indicated candidates' determination to make it a hot election.

By Thursday morning campaign advertisements adorned the front pages of three Arabic daily newspapers and several campaign banners were erected in the main streets of Amman and the other constituencies.

But since the election campaign regulations bans the sticking of campaign leaflets and posters to walls, supporters of each candidate had to confine to themselves to distributing their election programmes by hand.

It is still early and rather difficult to cover all the candidates' election programmes due to the large number standing, but campaign advertisements that have appeared in the local newspapers on Thursday and Friday showed that there are some common goals that many candidates have pledged to support.

Among these objectives are the strengthening of the army, the development of agriculture and national industries and combating corruption.

Enhancing national unity and the woman's role in society were also advocated by several candidates in their campaign publications.

Most candidates, however, steered away from raising specific political issues and stuck to generalities, with the exception of few who introduced comprehensive election programmes reflecting different political stances.

The candidates are all considered to be independent since martial law, which has been in effect since 1967, bans the formation of political parties.

Yet several candidates, as reflected in their programmes, represent certain political trends in the country.

The candidates, Leith Eshbellat, Faris Al Nabulsi in the Amman Governorate and Mahmoud Al Ma'ayeh in the Karak Governorate called for the rejection of all "capitulatory settlements of the Palestinian cause".

Mr. Eshbellat, the president of the Jordan Engineers Association

and a former National Consultative Council (NCC) member stated in a campaign leaflet that the main function of the parliament is "to resist calls for capitulatory solutions of the Palestinian cause and to mobilise the nation to face the threats it is facing."

Mr. Nabulsi, a 37-year old lawyer, was more specific in his programme in which he called for an outright rejection of the American President Ronald Reagan's peace initiative for the Middle East and endorsed the establishment of a Palestinian independent state under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Mr. Nabulsi, the son of late Prime Minister Suleiman Nabulsi who headed "the national-patriotic coalition" government in 1956, also pledged to work for "the emancipation of democratic freedoms and abolishing extraordinary laws."

Mr. Ma'ayeh, a retired army officer, pledged to struggle "to thwart all the capitulatory settlements of the Palestinian question."

He called for the formation of a "broad Arab front to confront the American and Zionist conspiracies."

Former NCC member and minister Jamal Al Sha'er, who is running for the Balqa Christian seat, stressed national unity "which can be achieved best by sharing and participation between Jordanians and Palestinians."

In a written document Dr. Sha'er distributed Thursday, he said the restoration of the parliament "has opened wider horizons for exercising a better role in the national and legal responsibilities of Jordan in the West Bank."

During his term as an NCC member, Dr. Sha'er was known to be one of the staunchest advocates of the restoration of the Lower House of Parliament.

More on the candidates and their programmes will emerge after the closing of nominations Monday and as the election campaign progresses.

Hustings open for Professional Engineers Association Elections

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A large number of Jordanian engineers attended a meeting Friday to listen to the manifestoes of the candidates in the forthcoming Professional Engineers Association elections scheduled for next Friday.

The candidates are running for eight positions at the association: the post of president; vice-president; and representatives for the civil section, architectural section, mechanical section, electrical section, mining section and chemical section.

Candidates at Friday's meeting outlined their policies and programmes for the engineers and their association and each discussed his plan for the improvement of engineers' conditions and the association's tasks.

Amongst the strongest competitors at the coming elections will be the candidates of the "professional work bloc" which includes Ibrahim Abu Ayyash who is running for president and Michel Massannat who is running for vice-president with another seven candidates for the rest of the positions.

The main objectives of the professional work bloc as announced in their publication and at the Friday meeting, are to work towards increasing the association's revenues and capabilities to serve its members by the better use of the pension fund's money.

The bloc urged the need to draw up a comprehensive plan to solve the problem of unemployment within the engineers in the kingdom and called for increased chances of better training for new graduates in the trade.

The bloc, led by Mr. Abu Ayyash who is considered to be the strongest competitor, to the incumbent Laith Eshbellat, the current president of the association — called for more protection for local engineering offices against foreign offices operating in the country.

Mr. Eshbellat, who heads another slate on which he is seeking re-election along with Rawhi Al Sharif who is running for vice-president, also reviewed his programme which emphasises the role of the engineer within the association for building a better society. He called for the amending of the 1981 association law and the revitalising of the association's activities in all fields.

Other candidates for the presidential position were Akram Abbassi, Khalid Najdawi and Ahmad Al Arabi.

Mr. Abbassi stressed the need to increase job opportunities for engineers to solve the unemployment problem and the commitment of any elected president to his announced programme and plans, while Mr. Najdawi called for the abolition of blocs and for elections to be held on an individual basis.

Mr. Arabi urged the rejection of the politicising of elections within the association and called for the honesty of all elected members.

WHO meeting emphasises role of continuing health education

By Anne Counsell
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A five-day symposium on "Continuing Health Education" held at the University of Jordan concluded Thursday with a presentation of certificates to the participants by Professor Borolossy, vice-president of the University of Jordan.

Organised by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and sponsored by the university's centre for development, the informal programme of discussions and workshops emphasised the need and importance of continuing health education for health workers in order to improve medical standards.

Participants from all fields of medicine and health education took part in the seminars on continuing medical education, its methods and evaluation.

Commenting on the symposium, Dr. Adnan Abbas, a facilitator from the centre for development, said that the seminar was successful as "it fulfilled its objectives and that the concept of continuing health education has

been realised to be both important and necessary in all fields of medicine in Jordan."

Dr. Abbas said that the wide range of specialists and health workers who attended the symposium participated fully and contributed their ideas towards establishing a system of continuing health education through the recommendations of the symposium.

Dr. John Bishop, an organiser from WHO, told the Jordan Times that the workshops had been "a success with the participants working together and learning from each other in addition to producing some sound recommendations to the authorities. If followed up, he added, it will help establish a comprehensive system of continuing health education for health workers in Jordan."

Dr. Bishop went on to say that the role of WHO in the symposium was to put forward ideas and to contribute to the design of the workshop as well as to help the medical sector in the country with their planning ideas.

Because the participants worked together in the workshops,

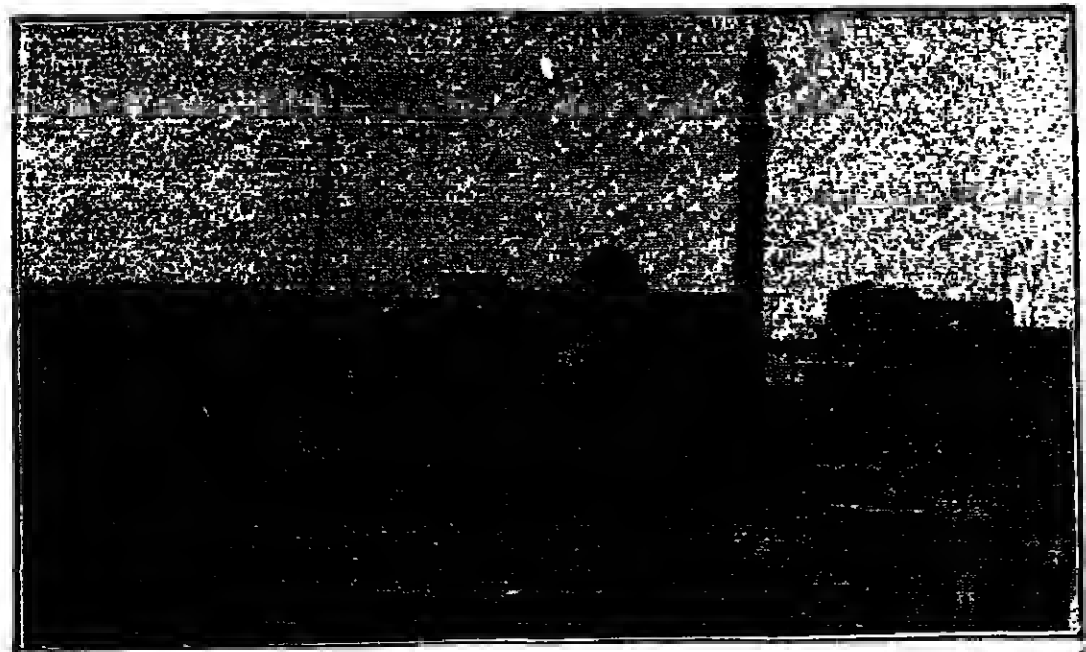
they really produced constructive plans based upon their knowledge of the circumstances in Jordan, he said.

"WHO has as its guiding policy 'Health for All by the Year 2000' to be attained through the application of the principle of primary health care. One of the ways in which this aim could be advanced is through a greater role being played by the universities," Dr. Bishop said, adding that WHO is exploring this possibility with several countries.

He said that this is part of a world-wide feeling that universities are seeking a greater role they can play in social development and further their responsibilities to society.

Dr. Bishop said that WHO is looking into the ways in which universities can contribute through teaching, research and forming public opinion.

WHO has given strong backing to the newly-established centre for development at the University of Jordan because they feel that it has a lot to offer to the health services of Jordan, he said.



The north Jordan town of Ramtha through which most of the traffic to and from Syria passes (J.T. file photo).

VIEW FROM AMERICA

By Franz Schurmann

U.S. media have a narrow view of Islam

SAN FRANCISCO — News about the Islamic World is beginning to increase in the American media. But much of it is negative, and there remains the pervasive sense that Islam is an "Arab" religion with occasional other adherents beyond. There is little detectable awareness in the media that Islam is a religion of global dimensions.

If it were just a question of the static fact that Islam is a world religion, the ignorance of the American media might not matter. But Islam, just about all of it, is undergoing a dramatic awakening. Europe had it a century and a half ago. Then came Japan's and China's turn. Now it is Islam's.

Islam is a religion of deep roots. That has given it the strength of a great tree. But Islam also is a force that can

move, and it is that force which is now beginning to move.

The U.S. is the supreme secular power in the world, much more so than the Soviet Union where Marxist ideology is gradually being supplanted by rank militarism. Christianity is a world religion and so is Buddhism. But neither has the religious force of Islam. If the awakening of Islam rises to newer and higher dimensions, then the supreme secular power must sooner or later come to terms with the new religious force.

Islam in the world is like a set of arcs. To the farthest east, there is the Indonesian arc. Muslims live in the southern Philippines, throughout Indonesia, and in Malaysia. They number some 150 million there. Little noticed in the West, Indonesian Islam has

been in an organising phase throughout this vast area that has given it great strength, less at the level of government than among the people, within society. It has become a great social force.

At the same time, Indonesian Islam has shown new maturity, new tolerance because of a new strength. This has greatly reduced the anxieties of other communities, especially the Chinese.

There is the Indian arc with some 230 million Muslims. The West thinks of Indian Muslims in terms of bloody communal clashes with Indian Hindus and Sikhs. These do erupt occasionally. But more important is the fact that so many Muslims, especially in India, are rising from their traditional poverty into the middle classes. Here too a new tolerance thr-

ough strength and self-respect has arisen.

There is the North Asian arc of Muslims who extend from China's coastal cities through Central Asia into the heart of Yugoslavia. In China there is an Islamic revival, especially in the western provinces. In the Soviet Union, Muslims are the fastest growing population. And four million Yugoslav Muslims, centred at Sarajevo, the capital of the Winter Olympics, are undergoing a renaissance.

There is the African arc which curves from deep on the east African coast through North Africa and again deep down into West Africa. Islam is the fastest growing religion in Africa.

And then there is the classical Middle Eastern arc of

Arab, Persian, and Turkish Muslims, the only arc even vaguely known in the American media.

There is even a small Islamic arc in the U.S. made up of "Black Muslims" who have discarded their former anti-white racism and a small but growing number of Muslim immigrants and converts. Washington is said to be considering making a gesture to Islam as the fourth religion in the U.S. after Protestantism, Catholicism, and Judaism.

Why should the Islamic awakening be happening now? Let me offer one explanation from an American perspective. For two centuries European and then American secularism was supreme in terms of moral and material force on the world scene. Now that secularism is

weakening. It is losing moral force within the West, and the science and technology which once was a Western monopoly has become truly global, evident in the stunning success of the Japanese. In the U.S. there is a new turn towards religion. But there is little awareness that this is part of a world phenomenon. And Islam has been the main beneficiary from this new trend.

It is regrettable — and dangerous — that the U.S. media while sensing that there is an Islamic stirring are seeing it in ever more narrow terms as something "Shi'ite" or "Iranian," or even as some fanatical aura emanating from the Ayatollah Khomeini. As the Islamic awakening gets wider, our vantage point in the U.S. gets narrower.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Friday

Al Ra'i: Lebanese unity can foil Israel

FINALLY THE Lebanese president has agreed to cancel the Israeli-Lebanese agreement, a measure which should have taken place some time ago, particularly as it was preceded by Israeli threats to the effect that a cancellation of the agreement would be a blow to Lebanon's independence and sovereignty and to peace in the Middle East. The Israeli threats coincided with an American reiteration of support for the agreement itself. Despite the fact that the Israeli threat and American support aim at placing obstacles in front of the Saudi reconciliation plan, which stipulates the cancelling the Israeli-Lebanese agreement, they could not change the state of affairs reflected in the American ambassador in Tel Aviv's admission that Israeli and American dreams in Lebanon have collapsed.

This state of collapse is the natural outcome of American policy which preferred the military option to diplomatic ones.

The Israeli-American insistence on maintaining the agreement of May 17 does not aim at strengthening the Israeli-American domination of Lebanon alone, but also represents an interpretation of the joint attitude to the agreement, considering it as the last defence line for the Camp David accords. Israel and America have strong fears that the collapse of the agreement might be the first step by the Egyptians towards opting out of the Camp David accords. Now that the Lebanese president has agreed to cancel the agreement in order to seek a reconciliation with the Lebanese opposition, no body can dismiss the possibility that Israel may embark on provocative acts in Lebanon to foil the reconciliation process and to prove that keys to stability are still in its hands and those of America. Therefore the current delicate stage entails that all Lebanese stand together firmly in the face of such Israeli threats with the aim of making the reconciliation process a success and rebuilding Lebanon and unifying its people to make it a strong Arab fortress.

Sawt Al Sha'ab: Assuming responsibility

THE LEBANESE President Amin Gemayel's intention of cancelling the agreement of May 17, and his agreement on the eight-point Saudi reconciliation plan to end the Lebanese crisis came in the light of new developments in Lebanon. The latest developments could have been avoided earlier had the Lebanese government given Lebanon's national interest top priority. Saying that it will cancel the agreement and admitting the established fact resulting from the balance of powers in Lebanon has come too late, as did the Saudi reconciliation plan. It does not finally solve the problem because it might maintain Lebanon as a scene of fighting and may impose on it a new form of external hegemony and division. If the cancellation of the agreement is viewed as a failure of American policy towards Lebanon, then such a failure reflects the failure of American policy in the Middle East as a whole, particularly since Washington has not been able to find a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict and has been unable to meet its obligations concerning establishment of peace in the area.

The Marines' withdrawal from Beirut and their re-deployment opposite the Lebanese shore does not mean that America is no longer committed to pursuing its role in Lebanon nor does it mean that it has relinquished its commitment to work towards finding a settlement to the Lebanese crisis. This failure is attributable to America's stand in support of one side in the Lebanese crisis. The Saudi project opens another opportunity to Lebanon and a final opportunity for it to rid itself from its suffering and to preserve the unity of its people and land. It also provides a new formula whereby all Lebanese people will be able to enjoy the same rights and duties. Lebanon nowadays cannot place the responsibility of failure on the United States alone or any other states because the Lebanese people are the only ones who bear the complete responsibility for successive failure.

Thursday

Al Ra'i: Beware of false hopes

IN THE light of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's statements upon his return to Cairo from the U.S. and in view of statements issued by American officials, we are bound to believe that Washington has again lost the chance to restore its credibility in the Middle East. President Mubarak said, after his talks with President Reagan, that the U.S. policy towards the Palestine Liberation Organisation has not changed and the American officials said that the talks between the president and King Hussein did not yield any positive results. The U.S. ambassador in Tel Aviv voiced his pessimism about the possibility of involving Jordan in negotiations in the near future and admitted that U.S.-Israeli dreams have been frustrated in Lebanon.

It is clear that the present deadlock over the Palestine problem stems from Washington's intransigence and its collusion with Israel over Lebanon. This policy has brought about total failure for the American administration and a lot of sufferings to many innocent people. The statements that followed the talks in Washington prove once again that the U.S. does not want to learn from its mistakes and therefore, the Arabs should pin no hopes whatsoever on Washington or its promises and policies.

Al Dusiour: The need to persevere

KING HUSSEIN'S call to the American administration to reconcentrate its political efforts on finding a solution to the Palestine problem and President Mubarak's call to Washington to conduct a direct dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) reflect the Arab will for establishing peace. The two leaders have a complete understanding of the situation in the region and can best advise the American administration on the wisest course to follow in the quest for peace. King Hussein's call amounts to a serious Arab effort to bring to the fore the Palestine issue and return the problem to the international arena in a bid to find a durable and just solution.

The United States, in its capacity as a superpower, should shoulder its responsibility to establish world peace and stability and should help solve this issue because it is the cause of the unrest in Lebanon and other parts of the region. Mubarak's statement was a reiteration of others made earlier by King Hussein in which he called on Washington to open a direct dialogue with the PLO in a bid to find a way out of the present deadlock. We realise that the American administration can only offer a limited response to these calls, in view of the presidential elections later this year. But this does not absolve the Arab countries from launching political offensives on the international front to try to bring about justice and establish peace in their region.



Democrats, Republicans question Reagan's pre-emptive strikes

By Jeffrey Antevil

WASHINGTON — President Reagan's announcement of a new American military stance in Lebanon has prompted fresh questions about the purpose of the U.S. commitment there and its implications for overall Middle East policy.

Critics and supporters of Mr. Reagan's policies in Lebanon praised his decision to withdraw the 1,600 U.S. Marines from an exposed position at Beirut Airport to the relative safety of the U.S. fleet offshore.

But some Republicans as well as opposition Democrats question the other part of his announcement — that U.S. naval guns and planes would begin actively supporting Lebanon's government against its Syrian-backed opponents.

They also question the timetable of a month or more for the pullback, arguing that during this period the government of President Amin Gemayel could collapse and the U.S. Marines, 260 of whom have been killed since last August, could again be deeply embroiled in Lebanon's factional struggles.

Democratic presidential candidate Jesse Jackson called the move "military escalation with the appearance of withdrawal."

In another typical comment, Senator John Glenn of Ohio, a former Marine who is also a Democratic presidential contender,

said the U.S. should not be in the middle of what appeared to be a new civil war in Lebanon.

Jim Wright, House of Representatives Democratic leader, said he was "alarmed by talk of pre-emptive strikes. It sounds dangerously like starting a war."

Conservative Republican Senator Barry Goldwater of Arizona said moving the Marines to ships "is not far enough. I would move them home... we have no vital interests in Lebanon and there is no reason for us to be in the region."

Congressional sources said that any appearance of increased U.S. military involvement, even with naval guns and planes rather than ground forces, would produce a fresh round of legislative moves to get the U.S. out of Lebanon.

Some U.S. foreign policy analysts said Mr. Reagan's announcement raised questions not only about U.S. goals in Lebanon but about the future of the broader peace process in the Middle East.

Mr. Reagan himself said in a newspaper interview last week that a Marine withdrawal would mean "the end of Lebanon and... the end of any ability on our part to bring about an overall peace in the Middle East."

This echoed his comment to broadcast executives last Oct. 24, one day after a suicide bombing killed 241 Marines near Beirut, that a victory of forces hostile to the West in that country would threaten stability in the entire non-producing Middle East and

damage U.S. credibility on a global scale.

From the time Mr. Reagan sent U.S. forces to Lebanon in August 1982 to oversee the forced evacuation of Palestinian fighters, he has argued that stability must be achieved there before turning to the broader problems of peace between Israel and the Arabs.

Critics challenged this assessment, arguing in the words of two Democratic congressmen that Mr. Reagan "has overstated our stake" in Lebanon.

By his own test, the president will be hard pressed to push the peace process while the world's attention is absorbed by Lebanon and when U.S. forces may be shelling and bombing Syrian and other Arab troops.

The apparently expanded U.S. military role in Lebanon has caused the deepest concerns here. U.S. and allied forces originally went there after Israel's invasion in June 1982 forced Palestinian fighters to leave.

The Marines returned there with the Multinational Force in September 1982 in response to a massacre of Palestinian civilians by Lebanese rightists.

Mr. Reagan said then they would play a mainly symbolic role while the Gemayel government established its authority in the country.

He said: "I want to emphasize that... there is no intention or expectation that U.S. Armed Forces will become involved in hos-

tilities."

A year later, when Israel withdrew its occupying troops from the Beirut area, major Lebanese factional fighting resumed and the Marines quickly became involved.

After the suicide bombing, the U.S. began firing at Muslim troops with the avowed purpose of protecting Marines and other members of the Multinational Force.

Saturday night Mr. Reagan broadened that mission, stating that even after the Marines are out, the United States will respond militarily to attacks on Beirut.

Only hours later, the U.S. Battleship New Jersey opened up on Muslim military positions with its 16-inch guns.

Critics in the U.S. and in Britain, France and Italy, and other countries with troops in the force, said the unit was being transformed from a neutral one to an active participant in a civil war on behalf of Mr. Gemayel and his largely Christian backers.

French and Italian officials, and to a lesser extent the British who announced Sunday they were withdrawing their small contingent, have expressed opposition both to a unilateral withdrawal and to siding with any Lebanese faction.

And critics such as Mr. Glenn and former Vice President Walter Mondale, front-runner for the Democratic presidential nomination, have made clear that Mr. Reagan's latest move has not removed Lebanon as an issue in November's U.S. election.

New Israeli books criticise invasion

By Alan Elmsner

TEL AVIV — Two new books on Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon have re-awakened a political dispute about crucial Israeli government actions before and during the war.

The books, by three well-known Israeli journalists, are highly critical of the decision by former Prime Minister Menachem Begin and then Defence Minister Ariel Sharon to launch the invasion, and conclude the war was always doomed to failure.

Revelations in the books have prompted the opposition Labour Party to renew its call for a judicial inquiry into the war.

An internal party committee is to examine whether the government lied in closed-door briefings it gave to parliament's Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee on the course of the war.

Government supporters have reacted angrily to the charge, recalling that Labour leaders supported the invasion. One member of parliament, Ehud Olmert, has suggested making secret committee proceedings public.

This would prove, he says, that Labour leaders knew the government intended to send Israeli troops as far as Beirut and not limit the invasion to within 40 kilometres of the Israeli border as Begin declared at the start of the war.

"Snowball" by Israel radio's diplomatic correspondent Shimon Shiffer sheds new light on the attitude of former U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig and tells how Sharon interpreted a vague statement by Haig that the U.S. understood Israel's predicament as blanket American approval for the coming invasion.

In the book — the title refers to the Israeli army's invasion code name, Operation Snow — Shiffer says Begin warned Washington that Israel intended to strike if given the chance.

"The U.S. administration said Israel should not act unless faced with a significant attack by Palestinian guerrillas," writes Shiffer. "Begin demanded the right to act in response to a clear provocation."

Haig suggested the words "clear provocation" in the international meaning of the phrase.

"The senseless war," by Israel Television's Arab Affairs Reporter Ehud Ya'ari and the Ha'aretz newspaper's military correspondent Ze'ev Schiff, says Sharon deliberately wrecked a U.S. peace plan which Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chief Yasser Arafat was ready to

consider. They say Sharon never brought to cabinet the plan, which involved Arafat withdrawing Palestinian artillery out of range of Israeli settlements in return for Israel decreasing its military presence in southern Lebanon.

Both books paint a picture of Begin and Sharon being determined to launch the strike at all costs and ignoring warnings that the operation would lead to conflict with Syria and not achieve its aim of bringing a new, Christian-dominated government to power in Beirut that would make peace with Israel.

Ya'ari and Schiff quote Military Intelligence chief Yehoshua Saguy as accusing Sharon of keeping him in the dark about vital military decisions.

"I must know what is about to happen... you should pick up the telephone at least," he is quoted as saying. "My request is that everyone should keep everyone up in date. It's unthinkable that there should be a situation where sensitive things are happening and I don't know about them."

The authors say Sharon intended to send Israeli troops into Muslim West Beirut even before the assassination of Lebanese President Bashir Gemayel, the official pretext for the move.

They quote an internal Defence Ministry document written before Gemayel's death, in which Sharon observes: "There is a need for military forces to go into the west Beirut refugee camps to clear them of terrorists... this has been agreed to by everybody. It only remains to decide who will carry out the operation."

In fact, Sharon ordered Lebanese Christian Falangist units into the Sabra and Shatila camps where they slaughtered hundreds of Palestinian civilians.

The Israeli army surrounding the camps did not stop the massacre for nearly 48 hours. A subsequent Israeli judicial inquiry blamed Sharon for Israel's indirect responsibility for the killings and recommended he resign.

Both books trace Israel's relations with the Falangists back to 1976. The then Labour Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin supplied arms but refused to involve Israel in fighting on their behalf.

All this changed under the right-wing Likud government of Begin. Shiffer quotes him as explaining to aides the "natural alliance between Israel and Lebanon's Christians."

Reviewer Tom Segev said in Koteret Rashit magazine that with 561 Israelis killed since the invasion "the most shocking fact is already known to all, namely that the war was a terrible failure."



Talking straight Marwan Muasher

A LOT has been said about the existing political, and to a lesser extent, social conditions prevailing in the Arab World. So much (at least in quantity) has been said, in fact, that people have stopped caring about or believing in what is said or done. Even articles attempting to criticise our political impotency, although often manifestations of honest emotions, remain largely monotonous, repetitive, highly emotional, and, most of all, passive reactions to situations that demand active strategies. Events pass us by, sometimes unnoticed, sometimes evoking short-lived pulses of indignation that quickly die

A troubled generation tries to find its mark

down. In a time period that spanned several decades already, in which I do not recall any major good news about our nation, life still goes on as usual for us. A shrug of the shoulder, or may be a sigh of sorrow, is the common way of reacting to events.

There is growing frustration among one particular segment of our society, that of the young, educated men and women of the Arab World. There is frustration at political moves that continue to prove short-sighted, impractical, nostalgic, and ineffective at best. There is frustration at existing social conditions that still are largely derived from a tribal culture, and largely discriminatory to the young, and to women. And there is frustration among the young at themselves, who keep criticising without finding, or unfortunately working to create, the proper channels to funnel their frustrations through.

The young, perhaps by definition, are always troubled all over the world. But they are particularly troubled in Jordan, where a major boom in education has widened the gap between old and new generations. The new emerging generation seems like a lost one, torn between two ways of life. And although there is hardly any debate that the present situation leaves much to be desired, there is no consensus, or even sometimes talk, over what is to be done. Even though saying this will invite great criticism, I am really

disappointed in us as a new generation. There does not yet appear a clear or even a shadow of a pattern of any move or action by the young, other than criticising. If even that, to try to change a way of thinking, not just the manifestations of this way, that we feel is illogical, unsystematic and not pragmatic.

Jordan has not experienced a social turbulence as bizarre and yet as fruitful as that of America in the sixties. This is partly due to the fact that people here are not as free to let out their frustrations, and partly because we have a different experience and a different culture from that of the Americans. But that does not mean frustrations do not exist. As such, it seems unnatural to me that they are yet to be transformed into a social movement that attempts to deal not only with the physical shortcomings of our society, but more importantly with the roots of these shortcomings, namely with our very perceptions and thinking processes.

When someone like (Jordan Times Columnist) Randa Habib criticises some aspect of society, rightly or wrongly, one must start with the assumption that she is doing it out of a need to improve, not out of hate, for her society. Putting one's ideas on the line by itself means someone feels strongly enough about a subject to commit oneself to it in writing. Randa Habib's frustrations might or might not be other people's frus-

trations; they nevertheless present another point of view about our society. The same is true for this writer, who voices concerns that some share, but others feel are only marginally important to society. As several people pointed out before, the important thing is to stimulate dialogue, which should be the first step towards positive action. Unfortunately, dialogue is something we are yet to learn without taking everything as a personal insult.

No single person has complete answers to everything. No single person claims to, unless he or she is lying. We are part of a generation that is desperately willing to help, but is still confused, troubled, frustrated, enthusiastic, lost. We are a generation that is tired of being a bystander. We want dearly to be a part of this country's achievements and shortcomings alike. Quite often, we feel neither. We want to be able to claim some achievements as ours, as well as shoulder the blame for any blunders. The return to parliamentary life is of utmost importance to this new generation, which is searching for an identity and a voice.

In order to achieve this, we must start with free dialogue. The young feel they cannot voice their opinions, whatever they might be, freely. Whereas the free exchange of ideas always precedes and has been the basis of all healthy, modern societies, we are yet to acknowledge its virtues. We keep talk-

ing about material improvements in roads, electricity, water, which are understandably basic, but while overly ignoring the need to re-evaluate our thinking processes and outlooks by listening to all ideas, bizarre as some might be. "I might disagree with your views, but I am willing to die for your right to voice them", Voltaire, the French prominent thinker, once said. It is a statement that we badly need to implement.

But perhaps what we are yet to realise is that free dialogue should start from within us, we the new generation. It will never be given to us unless we actively seek it and participate in it.

The young is not asking for a social revolution reminiscent of the sixties in the U.S. It seeks no radical physical changes in looks, or whatever negative aspects exist in any movement that people conveniently choose to only remember of any youth movement. What our young generation is asking for is a re-evaluation of many of our outlooks, free dialogue, and an active input in the country's future. We, too, are eager to build this country, a process that no single generation has the right to claim as solely its. We, too, want to contribute, in ways we know of, and others we are still looking for. We badly need to belong to this country, but not necessarily in the way some of the old generation want us to. While working towards that goal, we remain a generation in turmoil.

A friend of Jordan laid to rest

Edward J. Daly, an American philanthropist who had a long affiliation with Jordan, died on Jan. 21st. The following article by Carl Nolte of the San Francisco Chronicle reviews the life and achievements of Mr. Daly.



The late Edward J. Daly

SAN FRANCISCO — Edward J. Daly, the founder, chairman and chief stockholder of Oakland-based World Airways, died Saturday at his home in Orinda.

Mr. Daly, 61, died after an extended illness and his remains were cremated after a private service. Mr. Daly was considered the U.S. most colourful — and controversial — airline executive. For 32 years he personally directed the fortunes of World Airways.

Mr. Daly bought the airline in 1950, when its only assets were two elderly propeller planes. He built it into the world's largest charter carrier, then led into a bitter, costly and nearly disastrous series of air fare wars against the rest of the nation's airline industry.

World's earnings peaked in 1978, when the airline had revenues of \$158 million. Only four years later "World" was losing \$58 million a year, had to lay off one-third of its employees, and was on the brink of insolvency.

The airline was saved only after Mr. Daly was replaced as president and chief executive officer. The new management sliced costs, convinced the company's employees to take a wage cut, and restructured its debt. Finally — after two years of losses — "World" turned a \$12.6 million profit in the third quarter of 1983.

Mr. Daly was the last of the one-man airline tycoons — he owned 82 per cent of "World's" stock — and in the years before his airline's financial troubles and his own failing health slowed him up, he cultivated a colourful and sometimes incredible lifestyle.

He boasted that he was a friend to at least one king, four presidents and two popes. Mr. Daly was a friend of His Majesty King Hussein.

He was a patron of the arts who packed a gun, rode on the back of a pet pig, hit panicky Vietnamese soldiers with a pistol butt, befriended orphans and universities, terrorised his employees, and was capable of great kindness and appalling vulgarity.

He was born on the South Side of Chicago, then son of a fire-fighter who died when Edward was 15. He was one of four children and had to work while he attended high school and the University of Illinois, where he majored in chemical engineering.

He served in World War II in the Pacific, then went to work for a Los Angeles bank. After six months, he went into the air freight business, and in 1950 he bought the tiny World Airways for \$50,000.

Mr. Daly's timing was excellent

— the '50s were years of great growth in the airline business. He was also smart and aggressive, and "World" became a force in the charter airline business, flying first freight and then passengers. He moved his headquarters from Chicago to Oakland in the 1960s, then began charter flights to Southeast Asia for the government. He flew thousands of troops and tons of supplies to Vietnam during the war there.

As his military charter business flourished, so did his civilian flights. By the time he was 45, Mr. Daly was a millionaire a hundred times over. By the time of his death his fortune, though much reduced, was estimated at \$39 million.

Mr. Daly felt a compulsion to aid these less fortunate, and his charitable activities were legion: He aided victims of natural disasters in Mexico and Guatemala; he established scholarship funds for foreign students; he treated thousands of East Bay children to the Oakland Symphony concerts at Christmas; he endowed a science centre at the University of Santa Clara and served as chairman of its board of regents; he gave money to Greenpeace to save the whales, and he donated two giraffes to the Mexico City Zoo.

Mr. Daly's philanthropic activities in the Middle East included Jordan and Yemen. In 1974 he instituted the Queen Alia scholarship programme by providing \$100,000 in tuition grants, whereby students from Jordan would attend the University of Santa Clara. Ten Jordanian students from the scholarship programme, and currently, there is one Jordanian student studying at the University of Santa Clara at Mr. Daly's expense.

During his visit to Jordan in 1974, Mr. Daly was very much affected by the living conditions in the Palestinian refugee camps. He established a youth centre at the Bak'a "Refugee" Camp near Amman and donated thousands of dollars for building a library in the camp.

Later in a press interview, Mr. Daly was quoted as saying: "I will be very happy to see the Palestinian refugees return to Palestine to establish their own independent state."

estine to establish their own independent state."

In 1975, Mr. Edward J. Daly also instituted a series of similar scholarships for students of Yemen, details of which programme are currently being worked out by the academic authorities of Santa Clara and in Yemen.

In addition, World Airways has agreed to provide necessary training for six pilots from Yemen that will enable them to upgrade their professional abilities from piston aircraft to jet aircraft.

Mr. Daly offered his planes to fly Vietnamese orphans to the United States. He flew to Vietnam to take charge of the operation and nearly was caught in the government's collapse.

One of his jets was the last plane out of Da Nang, and it was mobbed by South Vietnamese soldiers frantic to escape the oncoming Viet Cong.

Mr. Daly himself stood at the plane's gangway armed with a pistol, using the gun butt on the soldiers who pushed aside the civilian refugees and tried to force their way aboard. Mr. Daly obtained television footage of this scene and often had it shown to people who expressed an interest in meeting him.

Later, his planes flew hundreds of orphans from Saigon, but Mr. Daly was disappointed and angry. He had hoped to "rescue" thousands.

At the end of the Vietnam War, Mr. Daly turned his charter airline into a scheduled carrier. He had campaigned for years for low air fares, which he felt would make travel affordable for thousands of people.

In addition to the World Airways Mr. Daly owned investments in many other countries of the world, including Jordan. Mr. Daly owned 20 per cent of the Aqaba Holiday Inn shares and a similar share of the Amman Holiday Inn. Mr. Daly is survived by his wife, Violet June Daly of the family home in Orinda, a daughter, Charlotte, a brother, Donald Daly of Carmichael, and two sisters, Grace Trull of Alameda and Marion Pedersen of Lakewood in Los Angeles County.

Bonn opposes nuclear-waste contract with China

By Katerina Syrimi
Reuter

BONN — A West German company keen to take up a Chinese offer to store Europe's nuclear waste has run into opposition from the Bonn government, which says shipping the highly-toxic material all the way to China is unnecessary.

Nuclear GmbH, a West German nuclear fuel firm, said last week it had signed a letter of intent with the China Nuclear Energy Industry Corporation (CNEIC) and was ready to act as its agent, arranging contracts with other European companies for storing waste in China.

The deal, according to some accounts, could earn China \$6 billion.

West Germany does not have nuclear fuel reprocessing facilities

yet and uses plants in France and Britain under long-term contracts. In theory, West Germany, where nuclear waste disposal has sparked strong and often violent controversy, would be expected to join up at a chance to unload spent fuel oil its soil.

But an Interior Ministry spokesman told Reuters Bonn opposed the plan because a waste storage plant would be completed in West Germany soon and a nuclear reprocessing plant was on the cards for the 1990s.

Diplomatic sources in Bonn believe CNEIC has offered to take about 4,000 tonnes of spent rods from Western Europe up to 1990 for \$6 billion and bury it in the Gobi Desert, central China.

Nuke-n sees the proposed deal in a European perspective and says it will not affect West Germany's waste disposal policy.

"We do not want to interfere

with Bonn," a company spokesman at Nuke-n's headquarters in Hanau, near Frankfurt, told Reuters. "Our clients would include other European firms."

Two other firms, Transnuclear, a Nuke-n subsidiary, and Alfred Hempel, which specialises in trade with Eastern Europe, are planning to co-operate with Nuke-n as agents.

Neither Nuke-n nor China have released details of the plan. The company spokesman said negotiations were at an early stage and "Nuke-n did not know what China intended to do with the waste."

Some critics of the plan say China may use the waste to extract plutonium, a principal component of nuclear weapons.

Although Peking has joined the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), it has not agreed to on-site ins-

pection of its storage facilities by agency officials.

In order to implement the deal, the West German firms will need the consent of the United States, which supplies West Germany with most of its nuclear materials.

Under American law, the transfer of waste abroad needs U.S. approval to ensure that no nuclear materials originating in the U.S. are used for military purposes.

Nuclear waste remains radioactive for many years and ecologists say that however stored, it poses long-term environmental hazards.

Critics of the proposal say a high degree of technological skill is necessary for nuclear waste to be buried safely.

One diplomatic source said a deal between Western European firms and China may in the long run bring the Communist country closer to signing the IAEA saf-

eguards accord, known as the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

In Peking, industry sources said storing the fuel may be cheaper than reprocessing it in Europe. But they added that the figure of \$6 billion seemed much too high.

A West German diplomat also dismissed the figure as absurd, noting that it was about three times the level of annual Sino-West German trade.

One industry expert in the Chinese capital said transporting the fuel from the coast to the landlocked Gobi Desert would present problems in view of worries over safety and the lack of modern road and railway systems.

The distance from the northern port of Tianjin to the Gobi in Inner Mongolia is about 700 kilometres. Chinese nuclear and Foreign Ministry officials said they knew nothing about the deal.

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Olympic champion Hamilton regrets he was not perfect

SARAJEVO (R) — The pride of achievement that Scott Hamilton felt after winning an Olympic gold medal Thursday night was tempered by the fact that the pressure told on him.

The 25-year-old American won the men's figure skating title that for the past four years has seemed to be his destiny. But he was not happy with the way he finally achieved it.

Hamilton missed two jumps in his programme, cutting one triple back to a single and another to a double, and while he was proud to have reached his goal, he could not hide the disappointment.

"I have dreamed for so long of skating well at the Olympics. I've waited so long for this and I wanted it to be perfect. But I let the pressure get to me," he said. "I let it affect my performance."

"The last four years led me to this moment, now I feel I fell off the edge of the world."

Hamilton's coach, Donald Laws, said his skater has been suffering from an infection of his right ear for the past three days, but Hamilton did not feel that was a factor.

"That's no excuse. It might have affected my concentration a little bit. But what really upsets me is that I let the outside things get in and I never did that before."

"I've always been cool, calm and collected, but tonight I wasn't. I wanted it to be the greatest moment absolutely perfect, but there was no way I could do it," he said.

Hamilton felt his performance "was not indicative of what I've been doing in practice. I've done that programme cleanly (the last 20 times), so there was no reason to think I would not skate my best."

"But I felt like I had 200 pound weights around my body. I felt the pressure, the responsibility to myself. It was really tough."

"I've worked and trained so hard and so long for this, waited so long, gone through 17 competitions without defeat. Now I don't know how I feel. I think I feel a sense of relief, that it's finally all over."

"I guess I didn't peak for this."

I've been riding so high for so long."

But it was not all gloom and despondency from Hamilton, who admitted to a feeling of achievement despite its shortcomings.

"I feel I've worked hard for this. I came here for this result and I got it," he said.

Italian breakthrough

Nineteen-year-old Paoletta Magoni scored a shock slalom triumph at the Winter Games Friday — Italy's first Olympic success in women's alpine skiing.

Unrated Magoni left the big-name skiers floundering on mist-shrouded Mount Jahorina as she threaded her way to gold with a superb second run.

Magoni, who followed up compatriot Paul Hildgartner's men's huge success last Sunday, had never finished higher than sixth in a three-year campaign on the World Cup circuit.

Perrine Pelen of France, third in Monday's giant slalom, improved to the silver medal position, almost a second behind Magoni. Ursula Konzett of Liechtenstein took the bronze.

American hopes Tamara McKinney and Christin Cooper went out on the first leg and Swiss World Champion Erika Hess trailed home fifth.

Surprise first-leg leader Christelle Guignard of France crashed out on the second run of a competition so tough that fewer than

half the starters made the final classification.

The Soviet Union claimed the only other title at stake Friday. They maintained their monopoly of the 4x7.5 km biathlon relay, despite a third-leg shooting error by Alimantas Shalina.

But anchorman Sergei Bulygin made up the deficit and finished ahead of Norway, with West Germany third.

Bill Johnson of the U.S. won the men's Olympic downhill gold medal Thursday to end Europe's long monopoly of the Blue Riband alpine ski event.

The 23-year-old American fulfilled his own title prediction by beating Switzerland's Peter Mueller and Austria's Anton Steiner into second and third places.

Johnson, who notched his first World Cup downhill win only last month, started sixth and overhauled Switzerland's Pirmin Zurbriggen and Austrian 1976 Olympic king Franz Klammer to take the lead.

He twice seemed in danger of having the gold medal snatched from him when first Mueller and then Steiner clocked faster intermediate times before the final third of the 3,066-metre Mount Bjelasnica track.

But Johnson's mastery of the bumps at the lower end of the 803-metre vertical drop course proved better than that of his rivals. He won in one minute 45.59 seconds to beat Mueller by 0.27 seconds and Steiner by 0.36.

The sun shone brightly Thursday in contrast to the bad weather which forced the organisers to call off the race three times in the past week.

Boxers allowed headguards in Los Angeles Games

SARAJEVO (R) — Boxers in the Los Angeles Olympics will be allowed to wear headguards, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) announced Friday.

It said a decision on whether their use should be compulsory would be taken by the International Amateur Boxing Federation (AIBA) in April.

The announcement was made after talks here between the IOC's medical commission and the AIBA.

In future amateur boxers will require an annual doctor's certificate after a thorough medical examination.

There will also be tighter supervision of boxers after bouts, especially if they have been knocked out, greater powers for ring-side doctors to stop contests and an age limit of 35 for competitors.

Any boxers, referees or doctors who violate the new regulations will be banned from competition for a year, the IOC said.

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American Scott Hamilton proud to have reached Olympic goal, but disappointed.

First division sides under pressure in English F.A. Cup

LONDON (R) — New West Bromwich manager Johnny Giles must wait until just before kick-off before naming his side for Saturday's English Football Association (F.A.) Cup fifth round clash with third division Plymouth.

Giles, re-appointed boss of the first division side this week, has five first team members undergoing treatment for an assortment of injuries.

The Birmingham side — one of eight first division clubs left in the competition — are chasing their first success since 1968. But Giles said Friday: "I can't even pick a squad yet, let alone a team." Plymouth will be unchanged and at full strength.

Norwich, who travel to second division Derby for their match, also suffered a late set-back when goalkeeper Chris Woods was taken ill.

Norwich will wait until the last possible minute before making a decision on Woods, who reported to training with a cold, and reserve goalkeeper Clive Baker has been put on stand-by.

Middlesbrough manager Malcolm Allison remains confident his second division side can repeat last season's surprise and again put out first division Notts County, who have seven players receiving attention.

"My players are sharp and in excellent spirits," said Allison, who steered Middlesbrough to a

fourth round victory over county last season.

Meanwhile Everton are likely to be without midfielder Kevin Richardson, scorer of their second goal in the 2-1 League Cup semi-final first leg win over Aston Villa in midweek, when they entertain Shrewsbury.

Striker Alan Brown is the only doubt for the second division side, who beat Ipswich to reach the last 16.

WBC warns Leonard against continuing boxing career

MEXICO CITY (R) — The World Boxing Council (WBC) said Thursday it would strongly advise retired welterweight champion Sugar Ray Leonard against a comeback if any doubts remained about his health.

The U.S. boxer has postponed a title challenge against Kevin Howard, due for February 25, after an operation last Monday to prevent a detachment of the retina in his right eye.

The WBC said its medical adviser, Adrian Whitson of Britain, discussed the case with WBC Pres-

ident Jose Sulaiman.

The 27, who decided to contact Leonard, 27, and recommended he totally abandon his comeback plans "should any doubt remain of his fitness, which has to be 100 per cent."

Leonard, who won the title in 1979, announced his retirement in November, 1982 after injuring his left eye in training for a fight in May of that year.

The American boxer, who has fought 33 times for one defeat, retired after retina surgery on the left eye.

Connors crushes Lutz

LA QUINTA, California (R) — Battling a desert wind storm, top-seeded Jimmy Connors crushed fellow American Bob Lutz 6-1, 6-2, Thursday to cruise into the quarterfinals of the \$255,000 La Quinta classic men's tennis tournament.

Also advancing were second seed Yannick Noah of France, a 6-3, 6-3 winner over Brian Teacher of the United States, and third-seeded American Jimmy Arias, who said he was lucky to beat compatriot David Pate 3-6, 7-5, 7-6.

Defending champion Jose Higueras of Spain beat Britain's John Lloyd 6-4, 6-3. But Higueras, the fourth seed, said his game "has to get better if I'm going to repeat as a champion."

Connors, who has won twice at La Quinta and enjoys playing in this southern California desert resort, said: "It got a little dusty and breezy but I adjusted my service toss and other than that my game holds up pretty well in the

wind." Asked if he was the "man to beat," a relaxed Connors replied: "Not really. I'm just trying to beat my man."

Noah, trying to find his form after a three-month holiday, benefited from the wind. "I was expecting a real tough match, but the wind bothered him a lot — he's taller than I am and he tosses the ball quite high on his serve."

Arias said he "didn't deserve to win."

"When we got to the third set, don't ask me how, I finally felt I was going to win, and my experience really helped in the tie-breaker," said Arias, adding that he has won seven straight tie-breakers, including four in 1984, and 18 of his last 19.

"At a time like that, he's over there thinking about how high he's going to go in the rankings if he knocks off the sixth-ranked player, while I'm concentrating better than ever — I know, I've been there," said Arias.

McEnroe claims right to be world number 1

SYDNEY (R) — John McEnroe of the United States moved into the final of the four-man tennis challenge with a straight-sets drubbing of arch-rival Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia here Friday.

McEnroe, ranked number two behind Lendl in the latest ATP standings, won the match 7-5, 6-2, 6-1.

After the victory, a confident McEnroe claimed as his right the top position. "On the computer Ivan is number one, but that's their only place. Everyone else knows who's really number one at the moment," he said.

On the Plexi-pave court Friday, McEnroe was at his best against an

opponent hampered by a knee injury after an accident with his racket during the match against Argentine Guillermo Vilas on Thursday.

"I was a step to step-and-a-half below my best and that made the difference," Lendl said.

McEnroe needed only 44 minutes to win the tense first set, and half that time to take the final set.

Sweden's Mats Wilander staged an upset in the second match of the day when he beat Vilas 6-4, 7-6, 4-6, 6-4 to take his first match of the series. But the win was not enough to alter the finals encounter Saturday, when Vilas will face McEnroe.

British press scathing about England cricket team performance

LONDON (R) — Britain's daily press were predictably strongly critical Thursday about the England cricket team's performance in the three-test series against New Zealand which ended Wednesday.

New Zealand won the series 1-1, their first-ever series win over England.

"Tactically the series was lost 13 days ago at Lancaster Park, Christchurch — through pitiful first-afternoon bowling on surely one of the most disgraceful pitches in test history," Peter Laker wrote in the Daily Mirror.

The Daily Express' Pat Gibson also criticised the Christchurch pitch, where New Zealand won the second of the three-test series by an innings and 132 runs.

But the Express conceded: "England bowled so badly on it and batted so spinelessly that they deserved to lose to New Zealand."

The Daily Mail's Peter Smith said middle-order batsman Derek

Randall was England's only success of the series, adding: "The memory of England's inept mishaps on the cracked Christchurch wicket in the second test would have been softened if the three-match series overall had offered a glimmer of hope."

Most papers carried England captain Bob Willis' criticisms of his side, in particular their disappointing batting.

"Are they a better side than us? They won, didn't they?" The Sun's Steve Whiting quoted Willis as saying.

New Zealand captain Geoff Howarth's comments on the England side were also widely quoted. "We had a little more discipline than England and we are much harder," the Mirror quoted him as saying.

"This is not the strongest England side I've played against. They are still rebuilding with some comparatively inexperienced test players and are looking for the right formula," Howarth added.

Most papers had high praise for Howarth, with the Guardian's Matthew Engel calling him probably "the best test captain in the world."

The Guardian's Matthews Engel said the series win "was a significant moment in the rise of New Zealand cricket and perhaps also in the decline of English cricket."

The Daily Telegraph's Michael Carey echoed this view.

"This worthy and historic achievement in the 21st of a series dating back to 1929-30 was probably partly a reflection of the growing maturity of New Zealand cricket, partly due to the problems a currently unpretentious side have encountered on a short tour such as this," Carey wrote.

The Telegraph went on to say: "Even in an era when all test sides find it increasingly hard to succeed away from home, England's recent overseas record is not good."

"We still can't seem to get a start of our innings, which is one reason why our record away from home is so appalling," Willis was quoted by the Daily Mail as saying.

Willis singled only Randall out for praise, as did the Guardian's Engel.

"If England players were quoted on the stock exchange, Randall would be the only one whose price would have risen significantly on this tour," he said.

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JE A places order with Austrian firm

VIENNA — For the 320 kilometre long, 400-KV overhead power link-up between the new power plant in Aqaba and Amman, Vereinigte Metallwerke Ranshofen-Berndorf AG are to supply Sch. 257 million worth of special ropes.

The order for 4,700 kilometres of overhead rope was placed with Ranshofen Berndorf by the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA). "Stalnm" ropes consist of aluminium-coated steel wires and have already been used with success for a number of large-scale projects. — Austrian Economic News

Israeli inflation hits record in January

TEL AVIV (AP) — Inflation rose by 14.9 per cent in January, the highest increase in the first month of year since the establishment of the state, the Central Statistics Bureau announced Wednesday.

The rise compared with 11.6 per cent in December and 8.5 per cent for the previous January. Inflation for 1983 was 190.7 per cent.

The major price rises were for food 16.5 per cent, housing 20 per cent and health 21 per cent.

The finance ministry had expected a rise of 12 per cent in the index, but claimed that January is traditionally a high inflation month.

The price rises mean that an average Israeli family of four must now spend at least 83,500 shekels (\$653) per month, the statistics bureau said.

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — The market closed mixed after a quiet session, dealers said. At 1500 Friday the F.T. index was down 3.6 at 814.3 but at 1530 the S.E. 100 index was 0.6 up at 1035.6.

Discount houses were active after the agreed bid from Mercantile House for Alexanders Discount which closed at its best level, up 143p to 555. Mercantile House recovered a 15p fall at 417. Other issues in the sector were off the day's highs but Seacombe Marshall rose 30p to 300.

Government bonds drifted easier, golds declined with the bullion price and North Americans eased.

Oils firmed reflecting renewed concern over Middle East tensions, dealers said. Ultramar was up 17p to 679. Britoil was 15p higher at 245 and Shell rose 7p to 628.

TI Group fell 8p to 246 but P and O was 8p up at 278 on revived speculative demand. ICI was 2p down at 614, Grand Met fell 8p to 350, but Thorm EMI rose 5p to 624 and Cable and Wireless added 8p to 338.

Banks ended narrowly higher and in mixed insurances Guardian Royal ended a net 3p down at 518 after 518.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One sterling	1.4435/45	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	0.6932/34	Canadian dollars
	2.3842/52	West German marks
	3.0270/80	Dutch guilders
	2.1950/60	Swiss francs
	54.97/55.02	Belgian francs
	8.2750/2800	French francs
	1659.75/1660.75	Italian lire
	333.30/40	Japanese yen
	7.9650/9700	Swedish crowns
	7.6550/6600	Norwegian crowns
	9.7950/9800	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	382.10/382.50	U.S. dollars

NEWS IN BRIEF

Kuwait Airways to cut back on flights

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait Airways is to cut back on some flights starting from next week, its managing director, Mr. Ahmad Al Mishari, was quoted Thursday as saying. He told the Kuwait News Agency the decision was taken in response to world recession, foreign currency fluctuations and rising operating expenses. One a week of the daily flights to London and one of four flights weekly to New York would be suspended until mid-May, and flights to Tripoli, Algiers and Tunis will stop until studies on the profitability of the routes had been completed, he said.

Indian port workers plan to strike

BOMBAY (R) — More than 300,000 workers at India's 10 major ports plan to go on strike if wage talks with the government scheduled for next week fail to yield results, a union leader said Thursday. Mr. S.R. Kulkarni said the union demands included a minimum wage rise of 450 rupees (\$45) per month, but added that the government had said it was only prepared to pay up to 200 rupees (\$20). "The amount offered by government is inadequate and unacceptable," he said.

IBM offers portable personal computer

BOCA RATON, Louisiana (R) — International Business Machine Corp. (IBM) has launched a portable version of its personal computer which is lighter and smaller than the original. IBM said Thursday the portable weighs about 13.5 kilograms and measures 50 x 43 x 20 millimetres including the built-in monitor. It packs into a self-contained unit with a handle and will be priced at \$2,795.

Quito sets 5-year oil development plan

QUITO (R) — Ecuador Thursday announced a \$2.24 billion, five-year plan designed to develop its key oil industry. State Oil Corporation Manager Patricio Ribadeneira told a press conference that the plan covers the major segments of the industry including production, processing, exports, domestic consumption and shipping and storage. He said the plan allocates \$1.21 billion for oil processing, \$776 million for production, \$130 million for associated projects, \$91 million for marketing and \$24 million for management expenses.

IMF body to meet on April 12

WASHINGTON (R) — The International Monetary Fund's (IMF) policy-making interim committee will meet here on April 12 before a meeting the following day of the IMF and World Bank development committee. The IMF said Wednesday. Developing states and some industrial countries, including the United States, had debated whether a meeting was needed since many major issues involving the fund had been resolved. But the poorer countries argued successfully that Third World debt and other questions made the meeting necessary.

Housing projects in U.S. surge by 15%

WASHINGTON (R) — New housing projects in the United States surged by 15 per cent last month to their highest level for five years, the Commerce Department said Thursday. Meanwhile, Treasury Secretary Donald Regan predicted that the real Gross National Product would grow at an annual rate of five per cent between January and March.

Abu Dhabi offshore oil output falls

ABU DHABI (R) — Abu Dhabi's offshore oil production fell in 1983 to its lowest level since the early 1970s, a company report said Thursday. Offshore output from the Abu Dhabi Marine Operating Company (Adma-Opeco) averaged 216,000 barrels per day (b/d) last year, down almost 30 per cent from the 1982 average of 293,000 b/d. The company blamed its annual report the deteriorating world oil market for the output decline. Japan bought only six million tonnes in 1983, down from 8.84 million the previous year. Supplies from Adma-Opeco to the big liquefied natural gas plant at Das Island fell to an average 386 million cubic feet daily from 469 million in 1982.

Lagos, IMF end vital loan talks

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — A Nigerian economic delegation has completed two days of vital loan talks with officials of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and monetary sources said the stage was set for more detailed future discussions.

The sources said the Nigerians had expressed their willingness to cooperate with the fund and presented the broad outlines of an economic plan that appeared consistent with the lending agency's economic policies.

The group, headed by Finance Minister Onalapo Soleye, is seeking about \$2.3 billion in assistance from the IMF and the World Bank to help offset a massive debt brought on by falling oil prices and the global recession.

During their stay in Washington, the delegation met IMF Managing Director Jacques De Larosiere, World Bank President Tom Clausen, and senior Reagan administration officials, including Treasury Secretary Donald Regan.

Lagos is seeking about \$2 billion from the IMF and about \$300 million from the bank, the sources said.

In addition, there are a number

of World Bank loans for development projects stalled during the government changeover that are now likely to be released.

The meetings on Wednesday and Thursday were the first Nigerian officials have had with the senior management of the IMF since the military takeover of the country by Major General Mohammed Buhari in December.

The new government has estimated Nigeria's outstanding foreign debt had risen to about \$15 billion during the four years of civilian rule prior to the coup that toppled the civilian government of Shehu Shagari.

The Nigerians also discussed the issue of whether their currency, the naira, should be devalued.

In addition, the officials discussed the possibility of withdrawing government subsidies on petroleum products and easing import restrictions.

U.S. said seeking action against UNCTAD, UNDP

GENEVA (OPECNA) — The United States is considering "taking action" against two more U.N. agencies, following its notice of withdrawal from UNESCO last December, agency reports say.

According to the Inter Press Service (IPS), the U.S. is seeking the support of other industrialised countries in its efforts to "downgrade and reduce the scope and activities" of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

The U.S. reportedly raised the issue at the January meeting of the "high-level committee on North-South issues" of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

Its views are expected to be formally put on paper at the next meeting of the committee in March.

The United States was reported to have threatened to "withdraw" from UNCTAD if other industrialised countries in the organisation would not support its efforts "to put UNCTAD on the right track."

Canada, Australia and the Nordic countries were reported to have made statements "distancing themselves" from the U.S. position.

Some sources said the U.S. was also seeking to cut down funds for technical assistance activities of

UNCTAD provided through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The United States has often charged that UNCTAD is "politically oriented in espousing Third World views". It has also been critical of UNCTAD support for programmes of economic cooperation among developing countries, and especially the programme for negotiating a Global System of Trade Preferences (GSTP) among Third World nations.

IPS said the GSTP programme, put forward by the Group of 77, had run into difficulties at UNCTAD because of objections by the United States and other Western countries.

The U.S. has also objected to UNCTAD studies said to be critical of the activities of transnational corporations, the Bretton Woods institutions and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

"The United States has never viewed UNCTAD with favour, ever since the issues of the new international economic order came to the fore," say the reports.

It has also been opposed to UNCTAD's involvement in the area of money and finance, which it maintains lies within the jurisdiction of the World Bank.

Portuguese protest over unpaid wages

LISBON (R) — Thousands of Portuguese workers protested outside parliament Thursday over wage arrears. The protesters waved black flags proclaiming workers and families were going hungry because firms were behind in paying wages. Communist Deputy Jeronimo De Sousa attacked the eight-month old government for "doing nothing" to solve the problem. "Today there are more than 150,000 workers, from about 450 firms whose salaries are in arrears," he said. Finance Minister Emanoel Lopes said the arrears were symptom of the Portuguese economy's sickness. He said the problem had to be tackled by strengthening the whole economy not just tackling isolated cases by pumping money into loss-making firms.

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1984

YOUR DAILY Horoscope from the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This is the time for you to handle tasks you have left undone. Most everyone sees things from a co-operative and amiable standard so that progress can be made in human relations.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Find the right items to improve your environment and be happier in it. Get your wardrobe made more charming. Be happy.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Look for types of recreation that can relieve tensions. Get good friends to join you in hobbies. Don't neglect early Saturday marketing.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) A good day to get into family activities. Invite good friends in who can be trusted. Entertain them well but not expensively.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Visit friends with whom you have good rapport. A good to handle any correspondence that is vital to your welfare.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Beautify your home. Study your books and be sure you have a workable budget. Show that you are sensible to critical friends.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You arise feeling great. See friends. Deepen the relationships by showing more thoughtfulness to them.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Good day to confer with others and enjoy pleasures. Much care must be exercised in driving and in conversations.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Get shopping and other errands done, then either call or visit as many good friends as you can. Come to an understanding with them.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You can work on public projects today for which you have little time during work days. Try to see an influential person.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) You have new ambitions that can make your career far more enviable. You may have to take a little trip. Drive wisely.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Handle your responsibilities with care. Show your mate more affection in the evening. Don't take this person for granted.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) A talk with outsiders can yield fine benefits. Get some special hobby perfected in your spare time. Get to the market early.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will be someone who likes to have the environment and clothing just so and will work to make it that way. Teach early to be equally concerned with human relationships. Teach good manners at the table.

"The Stars impel; they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!
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THE BETTER HALF By Harris



Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff

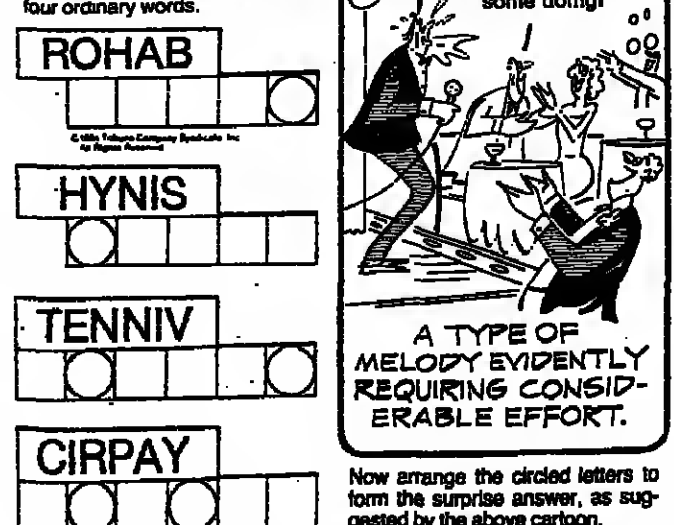


Andy Capp



JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



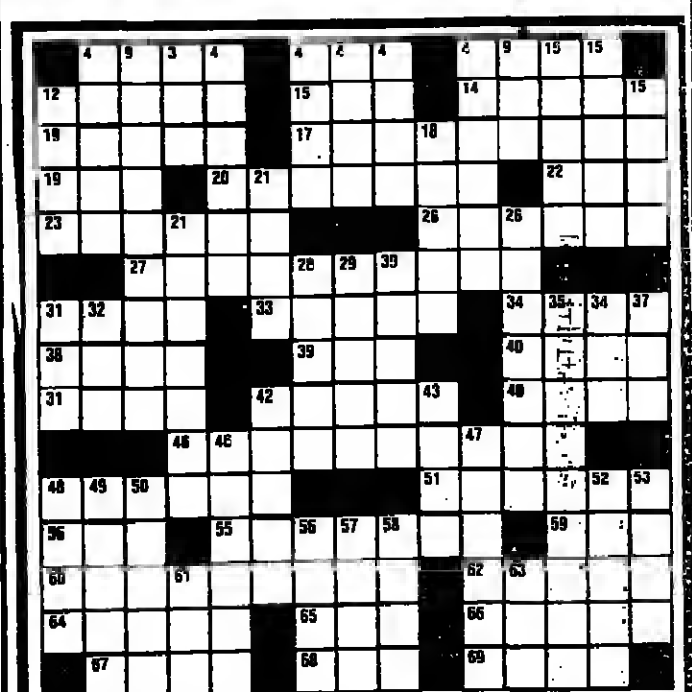
Print answer here: _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: IRONY ENACT INJURE SHREWD

Answer: That not-so-bright fat guy went to the paint store to get this—"TINNER"

THE Daily Crossword by William Canine



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9 technicians are hospitalised after U.S. nuclear test cave-in

LAS VEGAS, Nevada (R) — Nine technicians were in hospital after an underground nuclear test explosion caused a delayed cave-in below them, U.S. Department of Energy officials said.

The nine, one listed as critical, and three others sent home after treatment were the first on-site casualties due directly to a nuclear test at the 33-year-old Nevada desert site, they said, adding that no nuclear radiation escaped in Wednesday's blast.

Departmental experts were due to inspect the Rainier Mesa site 145 kilometres northeast of Las Vegas later Thursday.

The officials said the technicians were in or near trailers measuring the effects of the blast, which had occurred two hours earlier, when part of the desert 46 metres long and 18 metres wide

unexpectedly fell 3.5 metres.

The technicians were bounced about or fell, the officials added. Hospital officials said most of the injured suffered multiple injuries and trauma.

A department spokesman said earlier earth settling was not unusual after tests in soft soils but as this one was in hard rock, the collapse was unexpected.

Before the blast the technicians withdrew to safety and only re-entered the area two hours later to begin checking recording instruments when the area collapsed. "Some had the ground drop out from under them, some were sha-

ken off ladders leading to the tops of trailers and one man was apparently inside a trailer when it toppled over," department spokesman James Boyer said.

He said there was no doubt the collapse was caused by the explosion 356 metres below ground. Mr. Boyer would not disclose the specific purpose of the test. He said the strength of the explosion was below 20 kilotons, equivalent to 20,000 tons of TNT.

But Walter Raywood, a geologist at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas, said it registered 4.5 on the Richter Scale and estimated it had the force of 100 kilotons. Mr. Boyer said the Richter reading could be misleading.

The Soviet News Agency TASS said Thursday that a U.S. underground nuclear blast in Nevada

Wednesday showed that Washington was not keeping to agreements on subterranean atomic weapons tests.

The test was new evidence that "the U.S. violates the letter and spirit and the treaties and agreements signed by it on the limitation of arms and does not fulfil its juridical and political duties in this sphere," TASS said.

TASS added that this was the latest of several incidents in which Washington had breached agreements signed in 1974 and 1976 on restricting the size of underground tests. The U.S. has never ratified the treaties but has pledged to adhere to them.

The Soviet Union and the United States traded charges about the observance of arms accords last month.

Schmidt criticises Pope, U.S. and Soviets

NEW DELHI (R) — Former West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt Friday criticised the pope, accusing the Roman Catholic Church of opposing family planning programmes at a time when world population was rocketing.

In a wide-ranging speech to an Asian conference on population and development, he also called U.S. deficit spending undisciplined and said Moscow should be encouraged to contribute more aid and fewer arms to the Third World.

The 65-year-old former West German leader said the world was facing an acute double crisis of mounting debt and the worst tension between the superpowers since the confrontation in 1962 over Soviet missiles in Cuba.

The problems of developing countries were compounded by

rising populations. The global population was expected to grow from around 4.5 billion today to 6.5 billion by the turn of the century, he said.

"The rise in population could explode global peace," Mr. Schmidt warned, and he accused the pope of standing in the way of attempts to control the increase.

"The ideology of the Roman Catholic Church is one of the obstacles to family planning," he said. The church should recognise a distinction between contraception and abortion, he stated, "but so far the Pope doesn't see this."

There were hundreds of millions of couples around the world who needed to be persuaded on this point, the former chancellor and father of one added. He resigned from office in 1982.

The Roman Catholic Church is opposed to all forms of birth con-

trol except natural methods.

Prime Minister Indira Gandhi opened the four-day conference Friday morning. It is being attended by Asian parliamentarians, including former Japanese Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda and former Chinese Foreign Minister Huang Hua.

Mr. Fukuda warned that the world was being threatened by the gravest crisis in the post-war era.

He said there had been a series of tragic incidents around the world, including the shooting down of a Korean Airliner, the assassination of South Korean leaders in Burma, the protracted Iran-Iraq war, trouble in Lebanon and the conflict on Grenada.

"Any one of them could trigger a global scale tragedy," Mr. Fukuda said, adding that their root was in the Soviet-U.S. confrontation.

Team set up to monitor S. African pullout from Angola

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South Africa and Angola have formed a joint commission to monitor a withdrawal of Pretoria's troops from southern Angola.

South Africa's Foreign Minister P. W. Botha said it was an historic event for the region.

The commission was agreed at secret talks in the Zambian capital of Lusaka Thursday between high-level delegations from South Africa, Angola and the United States. Mr. Botha said the commission could include Americans if Angola and South Africa wanted them.

The official Angolan News Agency Angop said that Luanda could not accept the presence of Americans.

McGovern gets warm response in Iowa

DES MOINES, Iowa (R) — George McGovern, who 12 years ago led his party to one of the worst defeats in U.S. political history, is getting a warm reception in Iowa as he once again seeks the Democratic presidential nomination.

The former senator from the state of South Dakota is not a frontrunner among the eight men seeking the nomination. He admits he would be happy with a fourth-place finish in the state of Iowa's precinct caucuses which will kick off the election year on Monday.

But Mr. McGovern believes he is the only candidate offering a true alternative to the other liberals among the hopefuls, and whether it is nostalgia or politics he has been drawing more enthusiastic responses recently.

"I am, in a sense, the conscience of the party," Mr. McGovern told reporters after receiving an enthusiastic reception from a nurses' organisation Thursday night.

He said he thinks voters may eventually see that there is a "difference in degree" between him and other contenders such as former Vice President Walter Mondale, the Democratic frontrunner, Colorado Senator Gary Hart and

California Senator Alan Cranston.

Mr. McGovern said he is the only candidate proposing a 20 to 25 per cent cut in military spending while the others are only asking for a slower growth.

He also said he would end all U.S. military operations in Central America immediately while the other candidates have tended to place conditions on their policy proposals.

Mr. McGovern said he has sensed a revival of voter interest in his campaign since last weekend when he debated the other candidates in Des Moines and won a favourable reaction from the audience and from commentators by telling voters: "Don't throw away your conscience."

After the debate the Democratic state chairman in Iowa said he thought Mr. McGovern had clearly gained the most.

Mr. McGovern also said he was trying to advise his fellow combatants to go easy on each other because Friday's campaign rhetoric can be turned into ammunition by President Reagan and his Republicans for use against any nominee selected by the Democrats.

Soviet carrier passes Singapore to join fleet

SINGAPORE (R) — The Soviet aircraft carrier Novorossiysk steamed through the narrow Singapore Channel Thursday to join the Pacific fleet, largest in the Soviet navy, a U.S. Seventh Fleet spokesman said.

The Novorossiysk, which was accompanied by four warships, would be the second Soviet aircraft carrier assigned to the Pacific, the spokesman said.

It would join another Kiev-class carrier, the Minsk, in the fleet. The Soviet Pacific Fleet already has 800 naval vessels, including 140 submarines and 445 planes and helicopters, according to U.S. navy intelligence sources.

The U.S. Seventh Fleet flagship Blue Ridge, in Singapore on a goodwill visit, closely monitored the movement of the Soviet carrier and its escort through the Malacca Straits and the Singapore Channel into the South China Sea.

The spokesman identified the escort ships as the Kara-class cruiser Nikolayev, Krivak-class guided-missile frigate Porvoryisk, Ivan Rogov-class amphibious landing ship Alexander Nikolayev and the supply vessel Boris Butoma.

The Novorossiysk, which carries about three dozen Yak-36 Forger fighters, an unknown

number of Ka-25 helicopters and guided missiles, was expected to call at Cam Ranh Bay in southern Vietnam before deployment in the Pacific, the spokesman said.

The U.S. Seventh Fleet, with an operational area stretching from Japan to the Middle East, has a total of 90 warships and 410 aircraft, he said.

But despite Soviet superiority in numbers, he said, U.S. ships had the edge in technology and firepower.

Moscow has expanded its naval and air facilities at Cam Ranh Bay and its sister port of Da Nang, vastly increasing the operational capability of its fleet in the area, the spokesman added.

Non-Communist South East Asian countries have expressed concern over expansion of Soviet naval strength, which they see as a threat to the Malacca Straits, the vital link between the Indian and Pacific Oceans.

The Soviet embassy here said it had no information about the movements of the Novorossiysk which steamed across the busy Singapore Channel at reduced speed. The Soviet carrier generally operated at a speed of 30 nautical miles an hour, the spokesman said.

3 newsmen refuse to testify on Aquino

TOKYO (R) — Three Japanese television newsmen will refuse to testify to a commission probing the murder of Philippine opposition leader Benigno Aquino because this would interfere with press freedom, their editor said Friday.

Tamotsu Kuki, foreign news editor of the Tokyo Broadcasting System (TBS), told Reuters: "We respect the commission's search for the truth, but if we provide information learned through our news coverage for purposes other than news reporting it would harm freedom of the press."

Commission members arrived in Tokyo from Manila on Tuesday to seek evidence from the nine Japanese about the shooting. The nine included a TBS reporter, a cameraman and an assistant who were on board Mr. Aquino's plane

as he returned from three years of self-exile in the United States.

Mr. Aquino was shot as he stepped from the plane in the custody of security guards. The commission, led by former appeals court Judge Corazon Agrava, heard evidence Thursday from its first Japanese witness, a Japanese police official said Friday.

Masataka Kaneda, chief of the National Police Agency's International Criminal Division, declined to give details of the testimony by voice analyst Matsumi Suzuki.

"The police are taking a record of the testimony by witnesses and will send copies to the Philippines government," Kaneda said.

Mr. Suzuki analysed a recorded soundtrack after the shooting and told a Tokyo news conference in

October he could identify such words in Philippine dialect as "let me do it", "here he is", and "shoot him, shoot him".

The Philippine military says Mr. Aquino was shot by a man named Rolando Galman who was himself shot by security guards seconds later.

Japanese officials have imposed tight secrecy on questioning of voluntary witnesses by Japanese investigators. Members of the commission are attending only as observers. They have also refused to say who else will give evidence.

Katsuo Ueda, a journalist with Japan's Kyodo News Agency who was on board Mr. Aquino's flight but did not actually see the shooting, told Reuters however he had agreed to appear before the commission next Tuesday.

Ex-senator stopped from leaving Philippines

MANILA (R) — A top Philippines opposition figure, former Senator Salvador Laurel, was stopped from leaving for the United States after Manila Airport police found a gun in his suitcase.

Mr. Laurel, a close political ally of murdered opposition leader Benigno Aquino, told reporters as he was being led away to a nearby prosecutor's office that the weapon had been planted.

The former senator had been about to leave with his wife Celia for a two-week visit to the United States. In San Francisco he was to address a rally commemorating Mr. Aquino, who was assassinated at Manila Airport last August.

Mr. Laurel, 56, was held for about four hours by airport security police then taken away for further questioning. He told rep-

orters the government of President Ferdinand Marcos wanted to prevent him or his wife from addressing the San Francisco rally.

"They have planted a gun in my luggage to stop me from going to the United States. It is possible they may arrest me," he said. Illegal possession of firearms is an offence that does not allow a suspect to be released on bail, and carries a sentence of life imprisonment.

Acting Aviation Security Commander Colonel Romeo Ochoco said an X-ray detector found the weapon. "The law will have to be applied to the former senator to explain why he had a gun in his luggage," he said.

Mr. Laurel, who was also due to meet U.S. Congress leaders and

attend a lunch given by Senator Edward Kennedy, said his wife was also stopped from leaving, though her luggage was cleared.

Only hours earlier, Mr. Laurel had announced that the opposition United Nationalist Democratic Organisation (UNIDO), which he heads, would enter next May's national assembly elections.

The killing of Mr. Aquino, shot as he stepped off a plane from the United States, caused a wave of protest in the Philippines.

While waiting at the prosecutor's office, Mr. Laurel told reporters: "Being in detention does not change our announcement this morning that we will take part in the elections. In fact, we will fight even harder."

D'Estaing urges European role in arms talks

FRANKFURT (R) — Former French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing has called for West European participation in future East-West arms negotiations and creation of a European peace force, formed of regiments from different countries.

Mr. Giscard d'Estaing in a speech to an economic club here Thursday night said West European countries approved the principle of deployment of U.S. medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe but failed to contribute to the arms control talks between the nuclear

superpowers, the Soviet Union and the United States.

He said: "In the future, European nations as such must take part in the negotiations."

A continuing failure of West Europe to take proper care of its own defence could lead to damaging consequences, he added.

But the former leader commented that the length of time needed to develop Europe's own defence capacity meant that the nuclear guarantee of the U.S. would be needed for a long time. Development of a European

defence system would not lead to a withdrawal from NATO (the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation), he added.

He said the recent economic crisis had made it difficult for some European nations to continue a strong and independent defence strategy on their own.

In France, budget requirements had caused spending on conventional defence forces to be slowed down. Necessary modernisation of the French army had also been postponed.

Woman flier breaks new record

WASHINGTON (R) — Brooke Kuapp, the first woman to fly around the world over both poles, made more aviation history by breaking the round-the-world speed record for a commercial jet, her spokesman said.

Ms. Kuapp's blue and white Gulfstream III business jet touched down at Washington's National Airport just 45 hours, 32 minutes and 53 seconds after it took off on the 37,000 kilometre trip.

The time beat the record for any commercial jet by nearly 28 minutes, according to Ms. Kuapp's spokesman. The old record was set by a Boeing 747 in May 1976.

If the times are officially confirmed, Ms. Kuapp will add 43 new aviation records to the 60 she has already collected in two previous world trips, giving her more than any other living person, her spokesman said.

Ms. Kuapp told a news conference, when asked how it felt to beat U.S. woman flier Jacqueline Cochran's total of 65 aviation records.

The aircraft made refuelling stops in London, Moscow, Novosibirsk, Peking, Tokyo, Honolulu and Los Angeles.

The flight raised \$500,000 in private donations for the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

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Brooke Kuapp

It was the first time a record attempt had been approved by both the Soviet and Chinese authorities, Ms. Kuapp said.

U.S. envoy to C. America quits, paper says

WASHINGTON (R) — Richard Stone, President Reagan's special ambassador to Central America, has resigned effective on March 1, the Washington Post said Friday.

State Department and White House spokesmen refused to comment on the report, but administration sources said Mr. Stone had said he wanted to quit.

The envoy had not been involved in any policy disputes or problems, the sources added.

They said the administration wanted to keep Mr. Stone active in a job related to Central America.

Mr. Stone, 55, a conservative

and former U.S. Senator from Florida, took office last June.

One of his first tasks was to encourage negotiations between leftist guerrillas in El Salvador and the U.S.-backed government. But his efforts failed despite many visits to the region.

Later, Mr. Stone concentrated on promoting the Reagan administration's support for the Central American peace initiative of the so-called Contadora Group—Venezuela, Mexico, Panama and Colombia.

The Washington Post said Mr. Stone announced his decision to

quit in a letter to Mr. Reagan last week. He was not immediately available for comment on the report.

The envoy had been in dispute with Langhorne Motley, assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, the newspaper said.

Mr. Stone paid a surprise visit to new Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi on Wednesday. He said later they discussed next month's elections in El Salvador and the role of the Contadora Group in resolving Central American conflicts.

EC secrets allegedly leaked to Moscow

ATHENS (R) — Two conservative deputies alleged Thursday that Arne Treholt, a Norwegian official charged with spying, took advantage of his close friendship with Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu to provide Moscow with inside information about the European Community.

Mr. Treholt, who was a senior official at the Norwegian Foreign Ministry, was arrested on Jan. 2. The case caused a sensation in Greece, where he was honoured last year for his opposition to the 1967-74 military junta.

In a written submission to parliament, deputies Eleftherios Kaloyiannis and Ilias Vezdrevanis said Mr. Treholt used his links with Mr. Papandreu to get access to the Zappeion Palace in central

Athens. Three major ministerial meetings and a summit, marked by deep disagreement about how to resolve the Community's financial crisis, were held in the Zappeion during Greece's presidency of the bloc from July to December 1983, and the deputies said Moscow sometimes had access to proposals for solving the crisis.

The deputies alleged Mr. Treholt had also given Moscow valuable information about Greek national security, Greek relations with NATO and the American bases here.

The deputies demanded details of Mr. Papandreu's links with Mr. Treholt, and asked if he had influenced Athens' refusal, at one of the Zappeion meetings, to con-

demn the Soviet downing of a South Korean airliner.

Mr. Treholt was one of the 150 foreigners involved in opposing the Greek junta who were invited here in November for the commemoration of the 10th anniversary of a student uprising which the military dictators brutally crushed.

Submissions to parliament may either be answered in writing within 20 days or else accepted for debate by the assembly, a process that can be delayed many months.

Government spokesman Dimitrios Maroudas, replying unofficially to the claims, told newsmen later that records of people going in and out of the Zappeion during the presidency showed no trace of Mr. Treholt.

New therapy found for alcoholics

MEXICO CITY (R) — A Mexican priest, himself a reformed alcoholic, claims to have devised a "new" therapy for hard drinkers — chaining them up to prevent them from slipping out to the bar. Father Ignacio Ortega Aguilar opened his clinic in the Mexico City working class suburb of Ixtapalapa last June, according to the January issue of the magazine *Contenido*. With three unpaid helpers, the priest scours the streets of poor areas for drunks outside bars. "It is necessary to chain them up... because even if they have the will, sometimes the urge to drink drives them to the bars," he said. But Father Ignacio admitted that several of his patients had escaped, despite leg chains.

Bicycle sofa-desk developed in China

PEKING (R) — A Chinese inventor has developed a bicycle that can be converted into a tricycle, a desk, a sofa, or a wheelchair for the handicapped, the China Daily said. The bicycle, designed by an engineer in the northern city of Shenyang, has passed an official technical appraisal, the paper said, quoting the *Laioning Daily*.

Stolen holy tunic returned unharmed

PARIS (R) — A stolen brown woolen robe, said to have been worn by Jesus Christ as he carried the cross to the site of his crucifixion on Mount Calvary, has been returned intact, Father Marcel Guyard, the parish priest of a basilica outside Paris, said. He declined to identify the person who returned the holy tunic. It was stolen in December from the Saint-Denis Basilica in Argeotville by a group who demanded a Catholic Church donation to the banned Polish Trade Union Solidarity. "The tunic was treated with a certain respect," Rev. Guyard said in a statement. "As a priest I owe the person who brought it back to me the secrecy they requested and which I promised."

He added that he had withdrawn a complaint filed with the police. The tunic, gift from the Empress Irene of Constantinople to Charlemagne, has been preserved at the basilica since 800 A.D. Blood stains on the robe are said to have come from wounds Christ suffered.

Tribesmen eat cattle rustler

MANILA (R) — Angry tribesmen roasted and ate a suspected cattle rustler in the central Philippines, the newspaper *Tempo* reported. It quoted farmer Agmani Ulig as saying Mangayan tribesmen caught the man they believed headed a gang of rustlers in Mindoro Occidental province, about 160 kilometres south of Manila. *Tempo* said the Mangayans took the unidentified man to their village where he was "hog-tied and speared to death. His body was then roasted and eaten."

Four housewives smuggle gold coins

LONDON (R) — Four housewives who hid kruggerand gold coins in reinforced knickers to smuggle them into Britain were jailed Monday. The smugglers made their profit by pocketing a 15 per cent sales tax, which is added to the price of the coins when they are sold in Britain. The Old Bailey Court in London heard that the gang carried £5 million (£7 million) worth of the South African coins from the channel islands, a British dependency where they can be bought tax free. The court was told that the mastermind was Londoner Arthur "chic" Jacobs, whose wife, Anne, was caught by customs officers at Heathrow Airport carrying three kilos of coins hidden in pouches in specially strengthened panties.

Daughter fed to dog

BRISAC, France (Agencies) — A French chef whose baby daughter Valerie cried so much that it disturbed his television viewing killed her, cut her up, and fed some of her remains to his 27-year-old chef, and his wife Renee have been charged with manslaughter. Police said the couple had been earlier reported by social workers for beating-up little Valerie.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠9852 ♣KJ106 ♦6 ♠K1087
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♥ Pass
2 NT Pass ?
What action do you take?
Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠83 ♣Q10652 ♦J92 ♠843
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♥ Dble Pass ?
What action do you take?
Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠J7 ♣KJ872 ♦K7 ♠J873
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♥ Pass

- 2 ♥ Pass ?
What action do you take?
Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AKQ10953 ♣7 ♦A72 ♠95
What is your opening bid?
Q.5—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠7 ♥953 ♦Q1073 ♠KQ952
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South
3 ♦ Pass ?
What action do you take?
Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠K7 ♣AKQ93 ♦AQ8 ♠KJ6
What is your opening bid?

Look for answers on Monday.